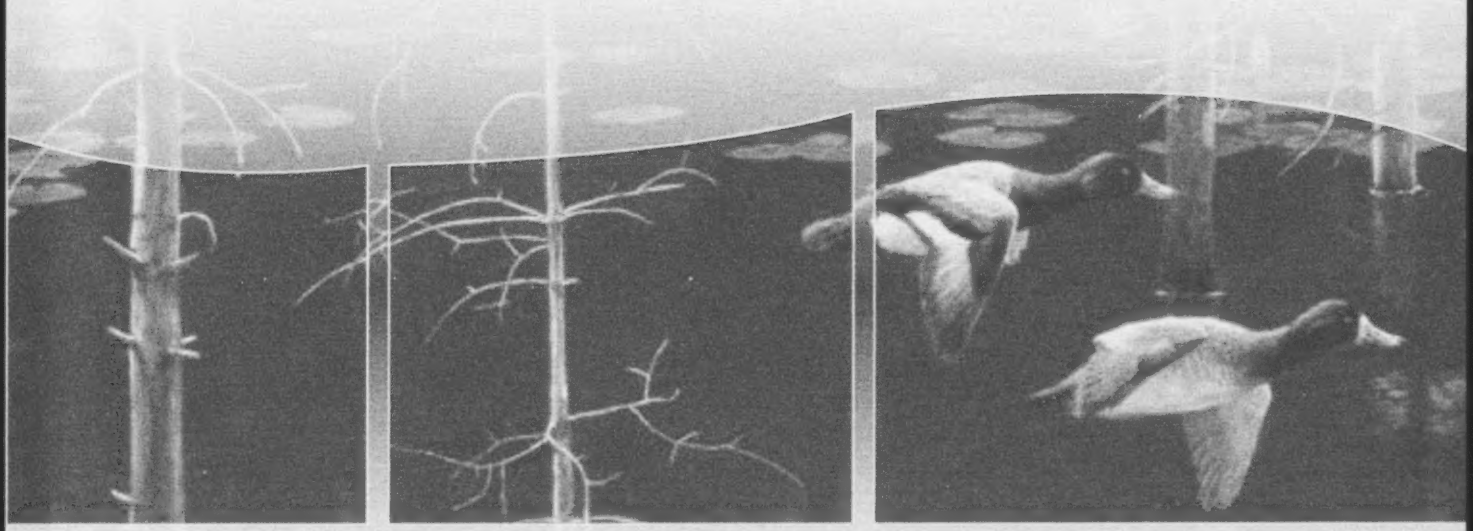
Environment Canada Environnement Canada

Migratory Birds Regulations in Canada
July 2010

Canadian Wildlife Service
Waterfowl Committee

CWS Migratory Birds Regulatory Report Number 30



Canada

For more information on migratory birds, please visit the following website:

Environment Canada's Migratory Birds website:
http://www.ec.gc.ca/nature/default.asp?lang=En&n=FDF836EF-1

HELPFUL TIP:

Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when birdwatching, hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information on minimizing the risk of exposure.

http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index-eng.php

Cover Art:

The 25th anniversary Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp featuring Lesser Scaup, entitled *Northern Wetland – Lesser Scaups*, was created by world-renowned Canadian wildlife artist Robert Bateman.

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For more information on Wildlife Habitat Canada or the conservation stamp and print program, please call Wildlife Habitat Canada at 613-722-2090 (in the Ottawa region) or toll-free at 1-800-669-7919. You can also obtain this information from Wildlife Habitat Canada's website at http://www.whc.org

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Editors:

This report was prepared by the Canadian Wildlife Service Waterfowl Committee, and edited by Renée Bergeron and Kathryn M. Dickson of the National Office of the Canadian Wildlife Service.

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Comments:

Comments regarding this report, the regulation-setting process or other concerns relating to national migratory game birds should be sent to the Director General, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, Ottawa ON K1A 0H3.

Region-specific comments should be sent to the appropriate Regional Director, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environmental Conservation Service, at the following addresses:

Atlantic Region: 17 Waterfowl Lane, P.O. Box 6227, Sackville NB E4L 1G6.
Quebec Region: 1141 route de l'Église, P.O. Box 10100, Sainte-Foy QC G1V 4H5.
Ontario Region: 4905 Dufferin Street, Toronto ON M3H 5T4.
Prairie & Northern Region: Twin Atria No. #2, 4999-98 Avenue, Edmonton AB T6B 2X3.
Pacific & Yukon Region: 5421 Robertson Road, R.R. #1, Delta BC V4K 3N2.

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BACKGROUND

Canadian hunting regulations for migratory game birds are reviewed annually by Environment Canada, with input from the provinces and territories and a range of other interested stakeholders. As part of this process, the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) of Environment Canada produces three reports each year. The first report, issued in December, *Population Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada (and Regulation Proposals for Overabundant Species)*, contains population and other biological information on migratory game birds, and thus provides the scientific basis for management. The second report, issued in January, *Proposals to Amend the Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations*, outlines the proposed changes to the annual hunting regulations, as well as other proposed amendments to the *Migratory Birds Regulations*. Proposals for hunting regulations are developed in accordance with the *Objectives and Guidelines for the Establishment of National Regulations for Migratory Game Bird Hunting* (http://www.ec.gc.ca/rcom-mbhr/default.asp?lang=En&n=56286E6C-9). These two documents are distributed to organizations and individuals with an interest in migratory game bird conservation, to provide an opportunity for input into the development of hunting regulations in this country. The third report, *Migratory Birds Regulations in Canada*, issued in August, summarizes the hunting regulations for the upcoming hunting season.

The process for the development of regulations in Canada requires that any changes be in the form of final proposals by early March of each year. That means that regulations must be set without the benefit of knowledge about the breeding conditions and production forecasts of the coming year. This does not usually present difficulties because the hunting regulations are based on trends over several years, but in some cases the results from recent harvest surveys or breeding population surveys conducted in May and June will indicate that changes in the national approach are needed to ensure conservation of migratory game birds. In this case, Environment Canada will process a regulatory amendment and issue a bulletin updating these regulations.

Annual Schedule for the Development of Hunting Regulations

The annual schedule for the development of hunting regulations is based on the requirement to have the annual hunting regulations made into law by early June of each year:

- Early December – *Population Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada* report *(and Regulation Proposals for Overabundant Species)*, containing biological information on migratory game birds, is distributed and posted on the Environment Canada (EC) website by CWS–HQ Population and Conservation Management Division (PCMD).
- November to early December – Jurisdictions develop proposals for hunting regulations in coordination with CWS Regional Directors.
- Early December – CWS Regions provide to CWS–PCMD the proposed changes to hunting regulations (with justifications) for the upcoming year, as well as any other information that should be included in the report on *Proposals to Amend the Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations*, including advance notice on items for future years. Descriptions of zone changes are sent by CWS Regions to the Surveyor General of Canada Lands for review, approval and translation.
- Late January – CWS–PCMD distributes the *Proposals to Amend the Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations* report containing the regulation proposals to allow for public, inter-regional and international consultation. Consultations are held in February.
- Mid-February – Replies from consultations are due at CWS Regional Directors' offices, which then ensure distribution to the provinces and territories.
- Late February – CWS Regions work with the provinces and territories to finalize regulation proposals following the public consultation period.
- Early March – Final proposals, as well as the final text of the regulations and regulation summaries, are sent by CWS Regional Directors to CWS–HQ Conservation Service Delivery and Permitting Division (CSDP).
- March through May – CWS–CSDP prepares legal documents and obtains approvals of the regulatory proposals.
- Early June – Hunting regulations become law.
- Mid July – Hunting regulation summaries are available at Canada Post outlets and on the EC website.
- Late August – CWS–PCMD distributes the *Migratory Birds Regulations in Canada* report containing the final proposals for hunting regulations and the hunting regulation summaries.

Note to American Readers

The annual cycle of regulation development takes place earlier in Canada than in the United States. To meet the requirements of the Canadian

regulatory process, proposals for hunting regulations must be finalized no later than late February of each year. Canadian representatives at the summer Flyway Council meetings and other hearings are not reporting on what is being considered, but on what has been passed into law.

2010 BREEDING POPULATION SURVEYS: Preliminary Information

Information from field programs undertaken in the spring of 2010 is provided for areas for which new data were available at the time of writing. It should be considered to be preliminary. The results of these and other 2010 breeding population surveys will be described in detail and compared to historical data sets in the *Population Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada* report published in fall 2010.

DUCKS

British Columbia

(Breault, CWS, pers. comm.)

Weather across B.C. over the 2009-2010 winter was dominated by the effects of a moderate El Niño. Most of the province experienced above-normal temperatures in January, February and March that resulted in significant winter snow melt. Winter snowfall and snowpacks were also below average for the B.C. Interior over the winter. Water levels were very low overall and habitat conditions were poor in the lower elevation portions of the B.C. Interior in May 2010. This is the fourth consecutive year with dry and poor habitat conditions for low-elevation wetlands.

Two major surveys have been used to estimate trends in duck populations in British Columbia: a large-scale (11 million hectare) aerial survey of the B.C. Interior and a replicated series of ground counts covering selected wetlands of the Southern and Central Interior Plateau of B.C. Ground counts were modified in 2007 to focus on managed and protected wetlands (habitat assessment). Aerial surveys of breeding waterfowl were begun in the Central Interior Plateau of British Columbia in May 2006. They have been repeated annually since and cover an area in excess of 10 million hectares. The survey uses a strip-transect total count method similar to the one used for the mid-continent breeding waterfowl survey, although all waterfowl sightings are geo-referenced and associated with a unique habitat type (i.e. stream, wetland, river, lake, agricultural field) and ecological unit (ecosection) to allow for the subsequent determination of ecosystem-specific, habitat-to-species relationships and the development of landscape use models that support the Canadian Intermountain Joint Venture planning and delivery. Waterfowl population estimates are calculated separately for each ecosection and also for the entire survey area. There were an estimated 486 585 (7166 CI) breeding waterfowl in the survey area in May 2010, 2% more than the 475 905 (8236 CI) waterfowl estimated in May 2009 (revised estimate following a retrospective analysis of the entire data set). Mallards were once again the most abundant species (~ 21% of the total, compared to 19% last year).

Western Boreal Forest Aquatic Birds

(Robertson, CWS, pers. comm.)

The Canadian Wildlife Service has gathered information on the abundance and productivity of migratory birds near Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, since 1985. Data are collected on a 38-km^2 study area that borders the main highway near Yellowknife. Common waterfowl species in the study area include Mallard, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck and Bufflehead. Surveys to estimate breeding pairs were conducted in May and June, and surveys to estimate productivity will be conducted in July and August. It has been an early spring in the southern Northwest Territories and some Mallard broods were already observed during mid-June.

Prairie Canada

(Schuster 2010)

The prairie, parkland and boreal regions of western Canada are surveyed annually in May as part of the cooperative United States Fish and Wildlife Service–Canadian Wildlife Service (USFWS–CWS) Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey. The survey area (strata 13-18; 20-40; 75-77) covers most of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, and parts of the Northwest Territories. Spring habitat conditions are measured by the number of May ponds, which are only measured in the southern portion (strata 20-40, 75 and 76) of this survey area. Pond numbers in the Prairie provinces in 2010 increased 5% from 2009 to 3.73 million ponds, which is 7% above the long-term average (1955-2009). Pond counts were 1% lower in Alberta, 21% higher in Saskatchewan, and 43% lower in Manitoba compared to 2009. The total number of ducks in the Canadian Prairies was 22.254 million, which was a decrease of 8% from the estimate of 24.202 million in 2009. Declines in the total number of ducks (all species) occurred in the southern part of the survey area (-17%), with northern areas increasing by 1%.

Mallard numbers decreased by 6% compared to 2009, and are 18% below the long-term average. Northern Pintail numbers increased by 1% from their 2009 levels to about 936 000, but remain well below the long-term average (-61%). Scaup numbers decreased by 1% from last year and are 24% below the long-term average. Canvasbacks decreased by 31% and are 18% below the long-term average.

Literature Cited

Schuster, M.H. 2010. *Canadian Prairie Waterfowl Status Report: a briefing document.* July 2010. Unpublished report of the Canadian Wildlife Service, Prairie and Northern Region.

Eastern Canada

(Gilliland, Pollard, Lepage and Meyer, CWS, pers. comm.)

In eastern Canada, breeding waterfowl populations are monitored annually through the Eastern Waterfowl Survey.

Newfoundland and Labrador. The winter in 2010 was unseasonably warm in Newfoundland and Labrador which resulted in low snow accumulation and early ice-out across much of the province. However, cool, wet conditions prevailed throughout April and May. Conditions observed on the survey suggested an early spring on the Avalon Peninsula and across Newfoundland's south coast, and observations of young goose and Black Duck broods suggested that nest initiation was somewhat earlier than normal in these areas. Spring conditions across central Newfoundland and Labrador appeared to be near normal. Most lakes were partially frozen, and wetlands partially snow-covered, in areas of northern Newfoundland and Labrador over 450 m above sea level. The survey was undertaken between May 13 and June 2, 2010. As in 2009, unusual numbers of grouped American Black Duck males were observed across the province; these may have represented moult-migrants from southern breeding areas or local males that completed breeding early.

Maritime Canada. Conditions observed during aerial surveys in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island suggested an extremely early spring across most of Maritime Canada, with timing of leaf-out of tree cover well in progress through the latter stages of the survey delivery window. The exception to this was observed in the Cape Breton Highlands where most water bodies surveyed were ice-covered (typical for this area at this time of year). Across surveyed areas of the Maritimes, grouped male dabbling ducks were commonly encountered. Lone males and dispersal pairs of Ring-necked Ducks were also observed frequently, which would suggest an early nesting effort for that species again in 2010. With the high number of grouped male dabbling ducks observed, calculated breeding pair counts are expected to be lower than in recent years: however, an early nesting effort and a complete absence of any flooding should result in a strong nesting and brood production effort in 2010.

Quebec. Spring conditions in the southern half of Quebec were among the earliest on record. Lake Saint-Jean, located in the central part of the study area, thawed on April 23, 15 days earlier than the long-term average (1916-2010). It was the third-earliest thaw date since 1916. Overall, conditions in the boreal forest during the 2010 survey were good, although water levels were very low, both in watercourses (rivers and streams) and waterbodies (lakes and reservoirs). A number of small wetlands were drier than normal, due in part to the low winter snow accumulation and mild conditions in March and April. Because of the early spring, the survey was conducted one week earlier than usual, i.e., from April 26 to May 27. The start of waterfowl nesting was more or less on schedule throughout the area covered (540 000 km^2). Given the early spring conditions, duck reproduction is expected to be good overall, but may be adversely affected by the low water levels.

Ontario. Spring arrived earlier than usual throughout Ontario after a generally drier, milder winter. This resulted in many waterfowl breeding earlier than usual. Precipitation during April and May was below normal, although some areas in northern Ontario received snow in early May. Temperatures were also well above normal, especially in northern Ontario, which resulted in ice-out on most lakes occurring by mid-April. In southern Ontario, the waterfowl ground plot survey was undertaken between April 6 and April 30, 2010. Numbers for breeding pairs of Mallards appeared higher than normal, while Wood Duck and Green-winged Teal numbers were average. In central and northeastern Ontario, the Eastern Waterfowl Survey was undertaken between May 3 and May 20, 2010. During this time, many trees had already leafed out, particularly in the southern plots, although not sufficiently enough to affect survey visibility. Waterfowl numbers in these areas were normal for most species including the Black Duck. Although water levels on most of the larger lakes and rivers were generally 1-2 metres below normal, beaver activity in the headwaters resulted in relatively good breeding habitat conditions. Conditions during nest initiation were excellent, with warm temperatures, little precipitation and no major storms or cold snaps

that could impact nesting success in the survey area.

GEESE

Lesser Snow Geese in the Western Canadian Arctic

(Robertson, CWS, and Groves, USFWS, pers. comm.)

More than 95% of Snow Geese in the western Canadian Arctic nest on Banks Island. Numbers here have increased from about 100 000 birds in 1960 to over half a million birds in 2002. The Bank Island Snow Goose colony was not surveyed in 2010. However, a USFWS survey crew flew over the colony on June 26 and observed both goslings and incubating birds. The survey crew's observations indicated an early spring on Banks Island.

The remaining 5% of the population nests in small colonies on the mainland at the Anderson River and Kendall Island migratory bird sanctuaries and, more recently, on the North Slope of Alaska. The mainland populations in the Canadian Arctic have varied in size from year to year (Kendall Island) or declined (Anderson River) during the last decade. Aerial surveys of the two mainland nesting areas are to be done every three years, unless the numbers drop below a set threshold. The next survey of these colonies is scheduled for 2012.

Wrangel Island Lesser Snow Geese

(Baranyuk, Wrangel Island Reserve, Russia, pers. comm.)

The colony of Lesser Snow Geese on Wrangel Island, Russia, is monitored by Russian biologists. They have documented a decline in nesting bird numbers: from 120 000 in 1970 to fewer than half that number in the 1990s (Kerbes et al. 1999). This population is of great interest to Canada because these birds migrate through western Canada in spring and fall, and more than half the population winters in the Fraser Delta of B.C. and the nearby Skagit Delta, Washington. The 2010 spring breeding population of Wrangel Island Snow Geese was estimated at 150 000 birds, an increase from last year due to excellent production in 2009. A late spring and poor weather resulted in poor nesting conditions in 2010, the main colony being covered with snow during the nesting period. Fewer than 5000 nests were initiated and only 10 000-12 000 goslings were produced. This should result in a fall/winter age ratio of < 5% this year.

Literature Cited

Kerbes, R.H., V.V. Baranyuk and J.E. Hines. 1999. Estimated size of the western Canadian Arctic and Wrangel Island Lesser Snow Goose populations on their breeding and wintering grounds. Pages 25-38 *in* R.H. Kerbes, K.M. Meeres, and J.E. Hines (eds.), *Distribution, survival, and numbers of Lesser Snow Geese of the western Canadian Arctic and Wrangel Island, Russia*. Canadian Wildlife Service Occasional Paper No. 98.

Pacific Canada Geese

(Breault, CWS, pers. comm.)

The May aerial surveys of breeding waterfowl initiated in the Central Interior Plateau of British Columbia in 2006 cover an area in excess of 10 million hectares. The survey uses a strip-transect total count method similar to the one used for the mid-continent breeding waterfowl survey, although all waterfowl sightings are geo-referenced and associated with a unique habitat type (i.e. stream, wetland, river, lake, agricultural field) and ecological unit (ecosection) to allow for the subsequent determination of ecosystem-specific, habitat-to-species relationships and the development of landscape use models. Pacific Canada Goose population estimates are calculated separately for each ecosection and also for the entire survey area. We estimated the presence of 16 363 Pacific Canada Geese in the surveyed portion of the B.C. Interior in May 2010, 24% fewer than the 21 463 geese estimated in May 2009.

Western High Arctic Brant

(Kraege, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, pers. comm.)

Based on satellite imagery, snowpack levels on the Parry Islands were very low in 2010 compared to the previous 10 years. This year's satellite imagery also shows a significant reduction in pack ice along the western region of the islands compared to past years. Based on this information, we would predict favourable breeding conditions and excellent production for Western High Arctic Brant in 2010.

Geese in the Central Canadian Arctic

(Alisauskas, EC-Science and Technology Branch, pers. comm.)

Based on general impressions of conditions in the central Canadian Arctic, nesting appears to have taken place later than average at Karrak Lake in 2010. This makes 2010 the fourth year in a row of later-than-average nesting, and below-average production is predicted for geese from the Queen Maud Gulf Migratory Bird Sanctuary. Preliminary estimates for both Ross's Geese and Lesser Snow Geese suggest a mean nest initiation date of June 15 compared to a long-term average of June 11 or

12 for 1991 to 2009. The late nest initiation dates of June 17 in 2007 and 2008, and June 19 in 2009 for Ross's Geese at Karrak Lake resulted in only 7% juveniles among Ross's Geese migrating through Saskatchewan in the fall of 2007, 13 % in the fall of 2008 and 4% in the fall of 2009. These percentages were the lowest recorded from 1993 to 2009 during which such data have been gathered in Saskatchewan for which the mean proportion of young in flocks was 25%. It is anticipated that comparably later-than-average nesting in 2010 will result in lower-than-average age ratios of young in Ross's, Snow and White-fronted Geese during fall 2010 in central Saskatchewan.

Population estimates for nesting Ross's Geese and Lesser Snow Geese are not yet available for 2010. Nevertheless, population growth over the longer term seems unabated for Ross's Geese, while there has been a population decline since 2006 for Lesser Snow Geese at Karrak Lake. For example, the number of light geese that nested on Karrak Lake in 2009 was about 1.13 million, of which 720 000 were Ross's Geese and only 409 000 of which were Lesser Snow Geese. Much of the decline in nesting Snow Geese was related to the very late nesting conditions of 2007 to 2009, inclusive, which resulted in fewer Snow Geese attempting to nest. Further declines in Lesser Snow Geese at Karrak Lake are expected for 2010 due to reduced breeding probability in 2010, and reduced recruitment since 2006. It is expected that there have been further declines in nest density and population size in 2010. From 1993 to 2009, the long-term average rate of annual population growth at Karrak Lake was 10% for Ross's Geese and 7% for Lesser Snow Geese. The combined long-term average was 8.2%.

Lesser Snow Geese in Hudson Bay

Akimiski Island & Cape Henrietta Maria

(Abraham, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, pers. comm.)

The spring thaw was very early in the Hudson Bay Lowlands in 2010. Snow Geese returned to Akimiski Island in James Bay, Ontario, by April 26, one of the earliest dates known for the colony. Nest initiation by Lesser Snow Geese on Akimiski Island was earlier than usual. Ground searches on the coastal portion of the colony revealed nest numbers at or slightly above average. Hatch started June 8. Nest predation was higher than average. As a result, average reproductive performance is expected.

Farther north at Cape Henrietta Maria, spring thaw was also very early, with most snow gone by the beginning of May. Snow Geese were actively incubating nests on May 17, with little remaining snow on the ground. The area occupied by the colony appeared to be similar to the last decade: however, no formal survey was conducted. Conditions were similar at the West Pen Island colony.

La Perouse Bay

(Rockwell, American Museum of Natural History, New York, pers. comm.)

Nesting studies of Lesser Snow Geese at La Perouse Bay in Manitoba are now in their 42nd year. As in 2009, the Snow Goose nesting areas at La Perouse Bay/Cape Churchill were very wet: however, in 2010 the thaw occurred much earlier and geese nested in large numbers on higher ground. Mean hatch date is predicted to be around June 14, which is 9 days earlier than average and nearly a full month earlier than in 2009. In study plots, nest densities were lower than usual, but the nesting geese extended over a much larger area. Large numbers of non-nesting Snow Geese were also present in early June, probably held back from continuing further north where winter conditions persisted.

Waterfowl Breeding Conditions on Southampton Island

(Abraham and Sharp, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, pers. comm.)

The spring was average or slightly early on Southampton Island this year. Goose breeding at East Bay Migratory Bird Sanctuary was good in 2010. Snow Geese and Cackling Geese both had good efforts, and average clutch size was above 4 for both species. Snow Geese hatched during the week of July 2 and peaked before July 7. Cackling Geese hatch began about July 3 and peaked by July 10. Brant hatch began about July 11. These dates are similar to the good breeding year of 1979.

Greater Snow Geese

Southern Quebec

(Lefebvre, CWS, pers. comm.)

Since 1965, the Canadian Wildlife Service has conducted an annual aerial photographic survey of Greater Snow Geese during their spring migration in southern Quebec. This year the survey was carried out on April 30 when five aircraft were used simultaneously during a warm and sunny day. During these favourable weather conditions, the geese tend to roost on waterbodies at mid-day, facilitating the coverage. The aerial survey covered a

large territory extending from Lake Champlain (south) to Lake Saint-Jean (north) and from eastern Ontario (west) to the Bay of Chaleur (east).

Following the 2009 results, which showed an important population increase that was difficult to explain biologically, the Service de Consultation Statistique (SCS) from Université Laval to verify the sampling and analysis methodology. During this process, some gaps were found which resulted in some corrections for the 2010 spring survey. For this year, the preliminary estimate of the size of the spring population was 814 000 ± 77 000 geese. Based on SCS recommendations, a revision process has been undertaken to check last years' estimates to verify their accuracy.

Bylot Island

(Gauthier, Laval University and Lefebvre, CWS pers. comm.)

Over the last 20 years, a major study of Greater Snow Goose reproduction has been conducted on Bylot Island. Breeding conditions for Geater Snow Geese were near average in 2010 on Bylot Island. In 2010, the early spring snowpack was one of the heaviest on record: however, temperatures in late May and early June were very mild with little precipitation and the melt proceeded quickly, though later than normal. The weather was warm and sunny throughout most of June and the beginning of July.

Because of the delayed snowmelt, nest density was lower than usual in the center of the colony, but the extent of nesting was greater than usual.

Nesting geese used any snow-free patches available in early June. In addition, there was a peak in lemming abundance this year and a large number of Snowy Owls nested on the island.

Lemmings were abundant this year (one of the highest peeks ever observed). As usual in years with abundant owls, many Snow Geese nested in association with the owls, which also contributed to the spread of nesting geese. As a result, it is somewhat difficult to evaluate the overall reproductive effort of geese, but it could be near normal.

Nesting phenology was variable among sites, but overall, it was near normal; clutch size was higher than average, probably because partial predation on nests was low this year. Indeed, most predators switched to lemmings due to their high abundance, resulting in the apparent high nesting success of geese based on the information available at the time of this report.

Based on these preliminary data, we expect a good fall flight for Greater Snow Geese, possibly above average.

Southern James Bay Canada Geese

(Brook and Hughes 2010; Abraham, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, pers. comm)

Spring phenology was very early in northern Ontario and on Akimiski Island. The 2010 survey was flown May 13 to 15 under good weather conditions. Spring phenology was very early compared with recent years in northern Ontario and on Akimiski Island, Nunavut. The 2010 spring population estimate for the Southern James Bay Population of Canada Geese was 87 270, which is similar to the most recent five-year average and was higher than in 2009.

Nesting on Akimiski Island was the earliest since studies began in 1992, with the majority of hatching occurring in the last week of May. Breeding effort was greater than in 2009, but about average for recent years. However, predation was vey high and hatching success was low as a consequence. Thus despite the early season, 2010 productivity on Akimiski Island was below average for this population. Mainland breeding conditions were also good, but no information on nesting effort is available. Preliminary results from mainland banding indicate reasonable ratios of goslings to breeding females. Gosling ages estimated from plumage during the first week of July ranged from less than 10 days to 6-7 weeks.

Literature Cited

Brook, R.W. and J. Hughes. 2010. *2010 Spring Population Estimates for SJBP Canada Geese.* Unpublished report of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Canadian Wildlife Service (Ontario Region).

Mississippi Valley Canada Geese

(Brook and Hughes 2010; Brook and Abraham, pers. comm.)

The 2010 survey was flown under excellent weather conditions on May 15 to 18 during mid-incubation. Spring conditions on the breeding grounds were very early compared to recent years, with snowmelt occurring in late April and early May. This, along with dry conditions, provided for an above-average nesting effort. Hatch was correspondingly early; however, predation at the Burntpoint Creek camp was relatively high, which will negatively affect productivity. The spring breeding population estimate was 339 310, which was up from 239 631 in 2009 and was only 6% below the 1989-2009 average. However, the total population estimate for 2010 was well below average at 359 687, reflecting a major failure in 2009 that led to an absence of non-breeding yearlings.

Spring phenology was much earlier than average in 2010 compared with the long-term and recent five-

year averages. This was in stark contrast to 2009, which was a record late year. There was below-average snow accumulation during winter 2010 throughout the Southern James Bay Population (SJBP) and Mississippi Valley Population (MVP) ranges, and April and May temperatures were well above average. With little snow cover on the SJBP and MVP ranges, Canada Geese went directly to breeding areas to nest.

Nest density at the Burntpoint Study Area (12.4 nests/km^2) was higher than for 2008 and 2009 but was below that for the 2001 to 2007 period. Total nest loss was 56.9% (152 of 267 nests). This rate was similar to 2009 and is very poor compared to earlier years. Hatch was more protracted compared to previous years and extended from May 28 to approximately June 15 (end estimated based on incubation stage of remaining active nests on June 9).

Despite the early snowmelt, poor nesting success suggests below average productivity, at least in the coastal stratum.

Literature Cited

Brook, R.W. and J. Hughes. 2010. *Preliminary Spring Survey Results for MVP Canada Geese, 2010.* Unpublished report of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Canadian Wildlife Service (Ontario Region).

Eastern Prairie Canada Geese

(Raedeke, Missouri Department of Conservation, pers. comm)

The timing of spring in the Eastern Prairie Population (EPP) Canada Goose breeding range varied from early in the south to late in the north. Below-average snowfall and mild conditions in April contributed to an early snowmelt. The southern portion of the EPP range was snow-free and drier than normal at the time of the survey, while the northern portion remained snow and ice-covered. Nesting phenology varied by a month from north to south.

The 2010 EPP estimate of 251 300 ± 73 600 is similar to the 2009 estimate of 279 900 ± 31 200 geese and within the range of the previous 10 years (125 900 – 290 700). The 2010 estimate of 172 600 ± 25 000 geese represented by singles and pairs is similar to the previous year's estimate of 169 100 ± 20 800 geese. The 2010 estimate of 67 900 ± 12 000 geese represented by singles is higher than last year's estimate of 50 400 ± 9 800 geese. This year's estimate of 104 680 ± 19 100 geese represented by pairs is similar to the 2009 estimate of 118 800 ± 17 000. The estimate of geese in groups remained unchanged, with estimates of 110 800 ± 24 200 and 78 700 ± 70 100 in 2009 and 2010, respectively. Population dynamics differed in coastal versus interior habitats. While numbers of single geese and productive geese remained unchanged in the interior habitat, in coastal habitat, the estimate of singles increased from 27400 ± 5 600 in 2009 to 42 400 ± 8 500 in 2010, and the estimate of productive geese rose from 30 200 ± 6 200 to 51 200 ± 11 200. Numbers of geese in groups declined from 56 400 ± 17 400 to 19 200 ± 11 400 in interior habitat but remained unchanged in coastal habitat.

The two-year average of 170 900 geese represented as singles and pairs is well above the two-year average minimum of 75 000 that would warrant more restrictive regulations.

North Atlantic Canada Geese

(Gilliland, CWS, pers. comm.)

The North Atlantic Canada Goose breeding population is surveyed as part of the Eastern Waterfowl Survey (see section on Ducks - Eastern Canada). The 2010 survey was completed between May 13 and June 2. Winter in 2010 was unseasonably warm in Newfoundland and Labrador, and conditions observed on the survey suggested an early spring on the Avalon Peninsula and across Newfoundland's south coast. Observations of young goose and Black Duck broods suggested that nest initiation was somewhat earlier than normal in these areas.

Atlantic Canada Geese

(Harvey, Maryland Department of Wildlife and Heritage, and Rodrigue and Cotter, CWS, pers. comm.)

Breeding pair survey (Ungava Bay and Hudson Bay)

The survey of Canada Geese breeding in northern Quebec was conducted between June 9 and June 18, 2010. The survey covered the three regions known to harbour the highest densities of nesting Atlantic Population geese (interior Ungava Peninsula, coastal Ungava Bay and Hudson Bay, as well as the tundra-forest transition zone south of the peninsula).

Spring temperatures and snowmelt in 2010 were normal. At the time of the survey, habitats along the Hudson Bay and Ungava Bay coasts were partially frozen.

The estimated number of breeding pairs (154 028 pairs, SE =12 533) was similar to the 2009 estimate of 176 118 pairs (SE = 14 421). The proportion of indicated pairs observed as single geese (57%) was slightly above the average for the 18 years of the survey (range = 34-62%, mean = 51%). The total population estimate (breeding pairs and grouped birds) was 776 212 individuals (SE = 55 179) compared to 1 097 744 (SE = 87 555)

in 2009. The total population estimate may contain large numbers of moult-migrant geese and should be interpreted cautiously.

Nesting survey (coastal lowlands along Ungava Bay)

In 1996 a recruitment study was initiated on Atlantic Population Canada Geese nesting on the Ungava Peninsula (Nunavik) in northern Quebec. In 2010, four sites located in the coastal lowlands along Ungava Bay were ground-searched for nests on June 8 and 9. There were no nests found at one site, Big Island, likely due to the presence of black bears. On the Ungava Peninsula in 2010, snowmelt was earlier than in most years, and at the time of the nest survey most nests were in early-mid incubation. The mean nest initiation date (average of three sites) in 2010 was May 27, which is eight days earlier than last year and two days earlier than the long-term average (1996-2009). In 2010 the total number of nests found and the mean clutch size for all sites were 58 and 3.80, respectively. For clutch size, this is slightly lower than the long-term average of 3.92. At the time of the survey, 55 of the 58 nests (i.e. 95%) found were still active. In conclusion, productivity of Atlantic Population Canada Geese on the Ungava Peninsula in 2010 should be moderate to good.

American Black Duck Harvest Strategy

Progress on the development of an international American Black Duck harvest strategy based on the principles of adaptive harvest management (AHM) has been published in previous CWS Migratory Birds Regulatory Reports. To summarize, in fall 2004, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the CWS agreed to work towards finalizing an AHM approach to determine appropriate levels of harvest for American Black Ducks in Canada and the U.S., based on breeding ground survey information. Models were initially based on wintering ground surveys, so certain technical adjustments will have to be made. These models are now being updated with breeding pair information.

Meanwhile, Canada and the U.S. (including the CWS, the USFWS, eastern provinces and states of the Atlantic and Mississippi flyways) have continued to work on an interim international harvest strategy. An agreement was reached on a strategy to be employed by both countries over the 2008-2009 to 2010-2011 hunting seasons, while allowing time for the development of a formal strategy based on the principles of AHM. The interim harvest strategy is prescriptive, in that it would call for no substantive changes in hunting regulations unless the Black Duck breeding population, averaged over the most recent three years, exceeds or falls below the long-term average breeding population by 15% or more (the long-term average breeding population is defined as the average composite estimate for the entire survey area between 1998 and 2007 inclusive). It would allow additional harvest opportunity (commensurate with the population increase) if the three-year average breeding population exceeds the long-term average by 15% or more, and would require reduction of harvest opportunity if the three-year average falls below the long-term average by 15% or more. The strategy is designed to share the Black Duck harvest equally between the two countries; however, recognizing incomplete control of harvest through regulations, it will allow realized harvest in either country to vary between 40 and 60%. It is proposed that this interim international Black Duck harvest strategy continue to be used for the 2010-2011 hunting season.

The American Black Duck Harvest Strategy Working Group will continue to keep the appropriate regulatory consultative bodies in Canada and the U.S. informed of progress as tools are developed for implementation of AHM for American Black Ducks. More details on the adaptive management study can be found on the following website: http://coopunit.forestry.uga.edu/blackduck/.

Revising the North American Waterfowl Management Plan

(by NAWMP Revision Steering Committee)

Goals: The North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP, or the Plan) will be revised in 2012 as part of the requirement for periodic updates. The proposed purpose of the Plan revision is "to sustain abundant waterfowl populations in order to preserve the culture and traditions of wildfowling with benefits to biodiversity, ecosystem processes and related recreational and economic values." This will be accomplished through partnerships of stakeholders, science-based conservation of landscapes, and sustainable harvest management. The goals of this revision are 1) to establish a unified system of waterfowl conservation that features explicit and coherent objectives broadly agreed upon by stakeholders; and 2) to implement coordinated actions for realizing those objectives.

Rationale: In many ways, waterfowl offer more complex management challenges than other natural resources. The large number of species, each with its own dynamics, presents a myriad of challenges magnified by the migratory nature of waterfowl. International coordination of conservation efforts is essential. Waterfowl managers have eagerly

accepted these challenges for more than a half century, and each generation has produced visionaries who provided valuable contributions for continuing progress.

The history of waterfowl management in North America includes many notable mileposts. Among these are the Migratory Bird Conventions – international treaties between the U.S. and Canada (1916) and between the U.S. and Mexico (1936); creation of the U.S. "Duck Stamp" and Canada's Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp; establishment of the flyway council system; the tri-national North American Waterfowl Management Plan; and creation of the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund. The waterfowl management community is approaching yet another milepost.

For the most part, managers have approached waterfowl conservation in an increasingly specialized manner, which has led in many instances to fragmented consideration for harvest, habitat, and hunters. Scientific advancements in each of these arenas during the past decade have illustrated the relationships among these segments. More explicit linkages among habitat, harvest and human dimension goals can lead to more effective management of waterfowl and wetland resources in the future.

In August 2008, waterfowl policy makers and technicians convened in Minneapolis at The Future of Waterfowl Management Workshop to discuss the benefits of integrating harvest, habitat and hunter management into a more coherent system that better utilizes limited resources to benefit waterfowl and the people who enjoy them. The majority of workshop participants agreed that waterfowl management should continue down the path toward integration of harvest, habitat, and human dimensions. It was agreed that the next Plan update was the appropriate venue for developing more coherent goals for waterfowl harvest and habitat management. Further, it was agreed that a group or venue be created to continue the work of the current Human Dimensions Working Group established to guide efforts of the Waterfowl Hunter Recruitment and Retention Task Force. The next Plan update, better defined as a revision of the actual NAWMP given its scope, is under way and is scheduled to be completed by 2012.

Call to action: Wetlands and other habitats necessary to sustain waterfowl populations continue to be lost. In some important areas of the U.S., losses have exceeded 90%; while in many settled areas of Canada wetland losses have approached 70%. In both countries, waterfowl hunter numbers have declined, threatening a loss of hunting traditions and the very foundation of North American wildlife conservation. Hunters have been an important source of funds for waterfowl conservation and they have been primary advocates for waterfowl and wetland-friendly public policies. Clearly, the loss of wetlands and other habitats, the status of waterfowl populations, and levels of hunter participation are inextricably linked. To overcome these challenges of the future we need 1) coherent objectives for waterfowl populations, habitat conservation and stakeholder engagement that are complementary and mutually reinforcing; 2) population goals that are attainable but adequate to satisfy hunters and other stakeholders, and sufficiently challenging to engage supporters in habitat conservation; 3) habitat goals that are adequate to achieve the demographic effects, population sizes and stakeholder experiences we desire; and 4) stakeholder participation and satisfaction sufficient to sustain habitats, populations and the conservation enterprise at mutually desired levels. Looking ahead, policy decisions regarding water, energy, agriculture and climate change will impact landscapes vital to waterfowl across North America. The waterfowl management community must play a leadership role in shaping these policies. To do so requires a united front-common goals, coordinated actions and clarity of focus.

Process: This revision is challenging from many perspectives: technical capacities must be expanded, diverse management philosophies must be accommodated and institutions that have served to advance waterfowl management may need modifications. A comprehensive consultative process is essential. In recognition of this, the process began in fall 2009 with a number of consultation workshops conducted between December 2009 and March 2010. A large number of participants were invited to events in Canada, Mexico and the United States, and included state and provincial wildlife agencies, flyway councils, joint ventures, federal agencies, waterfowl hunters and other interested publics. The initial consultation round was used to seek consensus on the fundamental objectives of waterfowl management in North America. An international technical committee is examining the results of the workshops and planning for the second phase of consultations, scheduled to begin in September 2010.

Growth Rates in North American Goose Populations

(Kathryn Dickson, CWS, National Office)

Populations of many North American goose species have been growing rapidly over recent decades. This pattern has been well-described for mid-continent Lesser Snow Geese *(Chen caerulescens caerulescens)* and Greater Snow

Geese (*Chen caerulescens atlantica*) (Batt 1997, 1998), two populations which in 1999 were designated to be overabundant. In this case, the populations had become so large that unsustainable levels of foraging were adversely affecting key habitats for migratory birds and other wildlife. Left unchecked, overabundant Snow Goose populations were judged likely to become seriously injurious to their own long-term survival and to that of other migratory birds, compromising the biological diversity of the Arctic ecosystem. The overabundance designation meant that the responsible agencies in Canada and the United States have been able to work at controlling the goose numbers by using extraordinary means to encourage hunters to increase their harvest to two or three times the previous level (see section of this report, entitled, "Management of Overabundant Snow Geese").

The rapid growth of the Snow Goose populations is explained by three key factors. First among these is the steady increase in quantity and quality of foods available on the migration areas and wintering grounds over recent decades, to the point where food resources over winter and during migration are no longer limiting. The increase in food availability is described in detail in Jefferies et al. (2003), who discuss the evolution of rice cultivation in the southern United States, the spread of corn fields with their spilled grains and the increasing yields brought about through use of more and better fertilizers. Geese have adapted to this altered landscape by increasing their feeding in agricultural fields and reducing their use of natural marshes. This behaviour has allowed them to better survive over winter, return to the breeding grounds in better condition, and thus, produce more young (Abraham et al. 1996). Secondly, the establishment of refugia (such as National Wildlife Refuges in the USA, National Wildlife Areas in Canada, sanctuaries, etc.) and thirdly, increases in population size have outpaced increases in harvest, resulting in lower harvest rates, which in turn have contributed to the high survival rates now enjoyed by Snow Geese (Abraham et al. 1996).

In addition to the factors above is the effect that climate change may have on goose populations, particularly those that breed in the Arctic where the production of young is heavily dependent on the weather conditions. Production is highest when the snow melts early and temperatures are relatively mild through brood-rearing and fledging. In very cold years with a delayed spring, geese may forgo nesting altogether. For example, the Lesser Snow Goose population nesting on Wrangel Island, Russia, was reduced by two thirds in the 1970s as a result of four consecutive late springs, while the same population has more than doubled in recent years because of relatively good weather and associated high annual recruitment (S. Boyd, pers. comm.). Based on this, it might be predicted that climate change could lead to higher productivity for this and other goose populations. Alternatively, there is recent evidence from Alaska to suggest that climate change would affect the species composition of the plant community, resulting in greater biomass but poorer quality foods for geese (Schmutz et al. 2008) which could have negative effects on survival and productivity.

It is not surprising that several goose species are benefitting from the increase in resources provided by the agricultural landscape. High population growth rates have also been estimated for Lesser Snow Geese of the Canada's Western Arctic, Ross's Geese (*Chen rossii*) and temperate–breeding Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*). In the latter case, not only has the agricultural landscape provided higher quality foods; the conversion of forests to open agricultural lands and even to urban lands, particularly those close to water, has created safe nesting and brood-rearing sites (Hughes 2009). However, as Van Eerden et al. (1996) stated, the increased dependence of waterfowl on agricultural food tends also to lead to increasing numbers of conflicts with people, and damage to property and crops.

The pattern of landscape change over the past couple of centuries in North America parallels that observed in Europe, where the clearing of forests and draining of wetlands to produce cultivated lands began to intensify as early as A.D. 1000 (Van Eerden et al. 1996). The widespread application of nitrogen-based fertilizers increased plant production and extended the growing season (Van Eerden et al., 1996) so that the habit of geese feeding on improved pastures and crops became established in the Netherlands by A.D. 1400, and once established, the tradition of feeding on certain food appears to be maintained in the population. The authors' review concluded that all goose species (and two species of swans) now rely heavily (at least five months per year) on agricultural lands for overwintering in the Netherlands: Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*), Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis*), White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*), Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*), Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) and Brant Goose (*Branta bernicla*). Moreover, all species increased in abundance between the 1960s and 1990s (Van Eerden et al. 1996). The increases in abundance are due to the favourable landscape conditions as well as to a significant reduction in harvest mortality which took place during the same period (Van Eerden et al. 1996).

In contrast to the situation in northern Europe where the abundance of all goose species has responded positively to landscape changes by

capitalizing on agricultural food availability, some North American species have not reaped the benefits. For example, neither subspecies of Brant (*Branta bernicla hrota* and *Branta bernicla nigricans*) has begun using agricultural landscapes to any great extent, and for the most part remain restricted to natural marshes. Their relatively small populations as estimated during winter surveys appear to be rather stable (CWS Waterfowl Committee 2008). In addition, hunters continue to harvest Brant at relatively high harvest rates controlled under management plans (e.g. Atlantic Flyway Council 2002).

It might be expected that Cackling Geese (*Branta hutchinsii*) would also capitalize on the present agricultural landscape. This species occupies much of the same breeding, migration and wintering area as Lesser Snow Geese but has not shown the same increase in abundance and appears to be held in check by sufficiently high harvest rates. However, the quality of abundance estimates for this species is poor.

Until recently, the abundance of Mid-continent Greater White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons*) followed a pattern of continued increase. Based on winter counts, the population increased dramatically from 12 000 in the 1950s to 140 000 in 1995 (Abraham and Jefferies 1997). Recognizing that its numbers were likely underestimated, and that it might more accurately be counted on the fall staging area, a new survey was initiated in 1992 in southern Saskatchewan and Alberta (Nieman and Gollop 1993). Since then, that survey has shown a fluctuating but stable population of between 600 000 and 1 million birds (Warner et al. 2008).

Why has the population of White-fronted Geese recently stopped growing? This too, appears related to more recent changes in the agricultural landscape. Recent evidence produced by Pearse et al. (submitted) reported that in the late 1990s the geese had greatly reduced the accumulation of fats on the key spring staging area in Nebraska, in comparison to the late 1970s. This is because much less corn is now grown in that area (Krapu et al. 2004). Instead, the birds now spend several weeks in southern Saskatchewan feeding on pulse crops, which Pearse et al. (submitted) showed did not make up the deficit in fat storage. This deficit could reduce the subsequent reproductive success; age ratios in the harvest are now much lower than they were formerly (D. Nieman pers. comm.). Pearse et al. (submitted) also suggested other factors potentially related to this shift in spring staging distribution, such as an earlier migration schedule and increased competition with Lesser Snow Geese staging in Nebraska.

In addition, the tight family bonds of White-fronted Geese render the species relatively easy to decoy and so remain very susceptible to hunting mortality. Alisauskas et al. (2009) estimated adult harvest rates through 2004 for White-fronted Geese to be about twice those estimated for Lesser Snow Geese or Ross's Geese, and about the same as for Greater Snow Geese. Continued high harvest rates and reduced production may be preventing White-fronted Geese from increasing rapidly.

In general the goose populations of North America are strongly influenced by the distribution and quality of winter foods. The present quantity of high-quality food is contributing to the rapid increase in abundance of several populations, in some cases beyond desirable limits. Whether or not special management actions will be required in future to reduce damage and conflicts is not known. As indicated by Garrott et al. (1993) there is certainly a need to work diligently to stop the declines of rare species, but we must also act to address conservation issues that concern common and overabundant species. Furthermore, acting to address overabundance is sometimes required despite the unpopular fact that it may be necessary to remove animals. Our experience with Snow Geese suggests that we need to carefully monitor the abundance of North American goose populations and implement prescriptions before they increase beyond our ability to manage and control.

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Management of Overabundant Snow Geese

Issue

The rapid growth of most Snow Goose populations is of great concern. A decade ago, comprehensive assessments of the environmental effects of the rapidly growing populations of mid-continent Lesser Snow Geese and Greater Snow Geese were completed by working groups of Canadian and American scientists. Their analyses are contained in the comprehensive reports entitled *Arctic Ecosystems in Peril – Report of the Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group* (Batt 1997) and *The Greater Snow Goose – Report of the Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group* (Batt 1998). These working groups concluded that the increase in Snow Goose populations was primarily human-induced. Improved farming practices supplying a steady food source along with the safety of refuges have resulted in increased survival and reproductive rates in Snow Geese. These populations have become so large that they are affecting the plant communities at staging areas and breeding grounds on which they and other species rely. Grazing and grubbing by geese not only permanently removes vegetation, but also changes soil salinity, nitrogen dynamics and moisture levels. The result is the alteration or elimination of the plant communities, which in all likelihood will not be restored. Although the Arctic is vast, the areas that support migrating and breeding geese and other companion species are limited in extent and some areas are likely to become inhospitable for decades. Increasing crop damage is also an important consequence of the growing Snow Goose populations.

Increasing numbers of spring migrant Greater Snow Geese have been observed in recent years on the tidal marsh habitats in and around Restigouche County, New Brunswick. The CWS, in concert with the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources, is continuing to examine the possibility of

establishing special conservation measures in New Brunswick in spring 2012 to assist efforts already in place in Quebec to curtail the rapid population growth and reduce the population size of Greater Snow Geese. It is anticipated that consultations will be expanded over the next year to determine whether the special measures in place in Quebec should be extended to include northwestern New Brunswick. A similar situation is occurring at the western edge of the spring staging range on agricultural lands of eastern Ontario. The CWS, in concert with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, is also examining the possibility of establishing special conservation measures for Snow Geese in eastern Ontario beginning in spring 2012.

Regulation

Several concurrent management measures are being undertaken to curtail the rapid population growth and reduce population size to a level consistent with the carrying capacity of the habitat. One measure attempts to increase the mortality rate of Snow Geese by two to three times the rate achieved prior to the introduction of special conservation measures. Beginning in 1999, an amendment to the *Migratory Birds Regulations* created special conditions under which hunters were encouraged to take overabundant species for conservation reasons and, in some cases and subject to specific controls, to use exceptional methods and equipment such as electronic calls and bait. The 1999 and 2000 regulations applied in selected areas of Quebec and Manitoba. Beginning in spring 2001, special conservation measures were also implemented in Saskatchewan and Nunavut. The dates and locations of application of these special conservation measures were determined in consultation with the provincial governments, other organizations and local communities.

Evaluation

Scientific studies are being implemented to track progress toward the goals of reduced population growth and, ultimately, recovery by plant communities.

For Lesser Snow Geese, the original objectives were to increase the continental harvest to approximately 0.8 to 1.2 million birds annually (Rockwell et al. 1997). These projections were later challenged as being too conservative, and annual harvest requirements of 1.4 to 3.4 million birds were projected on the basis of updated information (Cooke et al. 2000; Rockwell and Ankney 2000). An evaluation of the effectiveness of the special measures for mid-continent Lesser Snow Geese is being finalized. Overall, the balance of evidence favoured the conclusion that the mid-continent population has not declined, but has continued to grow during the conservation measures, although perhaps at a reduced rate (Alisauskas et al. (submitted)). The authors concluded that the weighted survival probability for mid-continent Snow Geese essentially did not change between the period preceding the conservation measures (1989-1997), and during the conservation measures themselves (1998-2006). They estimated low harvest rates, which increased from 0.024 during 1989-1997 for the northern most Arctic geese colonies to only 0.027 during 1998-2006, and from 0.031 to only 0.037 for the more southern Arctic colonies. Alisauskas et al. (submitted) concluded that the annual harvest did increase as a result of the conservation measures but failed to exceed 1 million adults in any year during the assessment period from 1989 to 2006.

In the case of Greater Snow Geese, the population objective adopted by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan is 500 000 birds, or about one-half of the nearly 1.0 million birds present in 1999. A recent evaluation demonstrated that special measures (for which the spring season was key) were successful in reducing the annual survival rate for adults from about 83% to about 72.5% (Calvert et al. 2007). This was reflected in the spring counts, which until recently indicated that the population had stabilized at about 1 000 000 birds; in 2010 the estimate was 814 000 birds.

Models show that without a spring harvest, the population would quickly begin to grow rapidly once more as a result of climatic changes that favour good breeding conditions in the Arctic as well as improved feeding conditions (corn and other crops) on wintering and staging grounds (Gauthier and Reed 2007). At the same time, it appears that the harvest in Canada has been maximized. Beginning in 2009 the eastern U.S. states were permitted to harvest additional Greater Snow Geese under a special Conservation Order. A report of the Snow Goose, Brant and Swan Committee (2009) of the Atlantic Flyway Council estimated that about 24 000 Greater Snow Geese were taken during the conservation measures in the United States. Whether this additional harvest pressure will be sufficient to bring the population under control remains to be seen.

Canada's strategic plan for the 2005-2010 period lays out key directions for management of Greater Snow Geese (Bélanger and Lefebvre 2006). Among these are the following: maintain a good quality long-term survey to estimate the size of the continental population; monitor the response of the population to management measures; achieve the necessary harvest rates in Quebec; work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state

governments toward increasing the harvest of Greater Snow Geese on wintering grounds in the United States; maintain good quality breeding and staging habitats in Quebec; maximize birdwatching and hunting opportunities; and review crop damage prevention and compensation programs.

Regulations for 2010-2011

The special measures implemented in spring 2011 are posted on the CWS website: http://www.ec.gc.ca/rcom-mbhr/default.asp?lang=En&n=A297B56F-1 and are also shown in Appendix B of this report.

The CWS fixed the dates for special conservation measures in the Manitoba and Saskatchewan spring hunts for mid-continent Lesser Snow Geese for the period from 2007–2008 to 2010–2011. This means that the regulations that have been in effect since spring 2008 remain in effect without change through spring 2010. Similarly no changes were made in Quebec or Nunavut for the spring of 2010. Starting in 2011 the taking of Snow Geese will begin March 1 (rather than April 1) in Quebec. Again, note that New Brunswick and Ontario are considering proposals to implement special conservation measures in spring 2012.

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Rockwell, R.F. and C.D. Ankney. 2000. Snow Geese: Can We Pay down the Mortgage? Pages 32–34 in H. Boyd, ed., *Population Modeling and Management of Snow Geese.* Canadian Wildlife Service Occasional Paper 102. 36 p.

Hunting Regulations for the 2010-2011 Season

The regulations in effect for 2010-2011 are shown in Appendix B. The amendments were approved by the Governor-in-Council on June 17, 2010.

Newfoundland and Labrador

No regulatory changes were made for the 2010-2011 hunting season.

Prince Edward Island

No regulatory changes were made for the 2010-2011 hunting season.

Nova Scotia

Canada Geese

Spring surveys conducted annually to estimate numbers of waterfowl breeding in the Maritime provinces have identified a tenfold increase in the abundance of breeding Canada Geese over the past 15 years.

An early September hunting season for Canada Geese will open on the Tuesday following Labour Day and continue for 11 consecutive days. This amendment is intended to help to reduce nuisance and crop depredation problems associated with Canada Geese. Similar seasons are currently in place in other provinces in Canada (including New Brunswick) and have been considered at least partially effective in controlling population growth for temperate-breeding Canada Geese.

The early September season will occur before most migrant geese arrive in Nova Scotia and as such would increase harvest pressure on locally breeding geese only.

In order to prevent disturbance to other waterfowl, hunting during the September Canada Goose season will be restricted to farmland only.

A bag and possession limit of 8 and 16 birds respectively (during the early September Canada Goose season only) will be authorized.

Streamlining regulations

The regulations were amended to simplify opening season dates; the additional season dates for Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, eiders, scoters, goldeneyes and buffleheads were harmonized within each hunting zone. This change has created additional hunting opportunity in zone 2 for Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, eiders, scoters, goldeneyes and bufflehead from October 1 to 7, 2010 and January 1 to 7, 2011.

In zone 3, additional hunting opportunity was added for Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, eiders, scoters, goldeneyes and buffleheads from January 1 to 7, 2011.

In order to provide adequate protection to scoters, the daily bag and possession limits for scoters were reduced to four and eight respectively, as is currently the situation in adjacent Maritime provinces.

There will be no increase in season length in zone 1, and the additional season previously in place for scaup (January 1 to 7) was revoked to provide them with adequate protection.

New Brunswick

No regulatory changes were made for the 2010-2011 hunting season.

Quebec

Harmonization of species names

The word "Gallinules" was replaced in the English regulations by "Moorhens". This change was made to harmonize nomenclature for this species in Quebec with that in Ontario.

No-hunting zone in Quebec

The boundaries of the Nicolet no-hunting zone in hunting district F were clarified by the addition of geographical coordinates. This sector is located in the St. Lawrence River to the northwest of the property belonging to the Department of National Defence near the town of Nicolet, Province of Quebec.

Snow Geese

Two regulatory amendments were made to contribute to the success of the special conservation measures to control population growth of Greater Snow Geese in Quebec.

First, the opening date of the spring conservation season was changed from April 1 to March 1, beginning in 2011, to better coincide with the peak migratory period.

Second, the former requirement to use only white phase Snow Goose decoys when using electronic calls was changed to permit the use of white and blue phase Snow Goose decoys. This amendment harmonizes regulations with those in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, where the use of white and blue phase Snow Goose decoys is allowed. Field studies have demonstrated that the use of electronic Snow Goose calls during seasons that are open for dark geese (Canada Geese and White-Fronted Geese) does not result in the increased harvest of dark geese (Caswell et.al. 2003).

Ontario

Harmonization and simplification of species names

The word "Gallinules poule-d'eau" was replaced in the French regulations by "Gallinules". This change was made to harmonize nomenclature for this species in Ontario with that in Quebec.

The word "American" was removed from the name American Coot and the word "Common" was removed from both names Common Snipe and Common Moorhen in the English regulations. These changes simplify the regulations without any consequences as there is only one species each of coot, snipe and moorhen present in Ontario.

Harmonization of bag and possession limits for Moorhen and Coot with adjacent provinces

The daily bag limit for Coot was reduced from 10 to 8 birds in 2010. This change harmonizes the daily bag limit for Coot in Ontario with that in Manitoba.

The daily bag limit for Moorhen was reduced from 10 to 4 birds in 2010. Moorhen numbers have declined in Ontario and the bag limit was reduced as a precautionary measure. This change also harmonizes the daily bag limit for Moorhen in Ontario with that in Quebec. The Moorhen is not present in Canada west of Ontario.

Increase the possession limit to three times the daily bag limit for migratory game birds

Possession limits were increased to three times

the daily bag limit for all species of migratory game birds that do not already have a possession limit equal to or higher than three times the daily bag (i.e. Snow Geese, Canada Geese and Cackling Geese). This change is intended to increase opportunity for hunters who might otherwise be forced to stop hunting, or to gift their birds in order to continue hunting, after as few as two days.

A similar measure was implemented in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba in an effort to increase consistency as much as possible in areas with similar waterfowl hunting opportunities.

This change is expected to have little effect on harvests of waterfowl in Ontario. It is unlikely that possession limits currently restrict harvest to a significant degree, because (1) a relatively small proportion of hunters harvest more than a possession limit of ducks or geese over the course of an entire season; (2) gifting of migratory game birds is legal, so successful hunters have the option of giving birds away in order to continue hunting, and (3) previous experience (e.g. for Canada/Cackling Geese in Manitoba) suggests that increasing possession limits will not affect overall harvest. In short, this proposal will allow successful hunters to retain more of the birds that they harvest without adversely affecting waterfowl populations, and may increase opportunities for some hunters, many of whom hunt for only a short period of time.

Effects of the proposed change will be evaluated by continuing to monitor hunter numbers and harvests of all migratory game birds.

Bag and possession limits

Possession limits for all migratory game birds, except Snow Geese, Canada Geese and Cackling Geese, were increased from two to three times the daily bag limit. Possession limits for Snow Geese, Canada Geese and Cackling Geese remain the same as last year.

Manitoba

Canada and Cackling Geese

The regulations were amended to increase the daily bag limit of Canada and Cackling Geese from five to eight throughout the province for all Canadian residents. This change will provide Canadian residents with the opportunity to increase their daily harvest of Canada and Cackling Geese, numbers of which have been either increasing (Temperate Nesting Population and Tall Grass Prairie Population) or stable (Eastern Prairie Population) in recent years. The change will also harmonize Canada and Cackling Goose bag limits (for Canadian residents) with those in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

This change is expected to have only a small effect on Canada and Cackling Goose harvest in Manitoba because 1) Canadian residents only partially influence harvest in Manitoba because non-Canadians account for 44–53% of the total annual goose harvest; 2) Canadian residents only harvest an average of 6–9 Canada/Cackling Geese per season in Manitoba, and very few (8-12%) harvest a possession limit (15) or more of any geese in an entire season; 3) average annual Canada/Cackling Goose harvest per Canadian hunter in Manitoba is similar to that in Saskatchewan and Alberta where bag limits are currently higher and opportunity similar; 4) Canada/Cackling Goose harvest increased only slightly since the same regulation change occurred in Alberta and Saskatchewan in 1996 and 1998, respectively, and is probably more related to increasing goose populations and hunting opportunity because harvest in Manitoba (with relatively stable regulations) has also increased during this time; and 5) from 2004 to 2008, a bag limit of eight Canada/Cackling Geese instead of five increased resident harvest by only 3% in Saskatchewan, where harvest opportunity is similar.

Effects of the proposed change will be evaluated by continuing to monitor hunter numbers and Canada/Cackling Goose harvest by Canadian residents, and the status of populations of Canada/Cackling Geese that are harvested in Manitoba.

Standardized season opening date for non-residents

The *Migratory Birds Regulations* were amended to set 1) the opening date of the non-resident White Goose (Lesser Snow and Ross's Geese) hunting season at September 17 in GBHZ 3 and 4; and 2) the opening date of the non-resident season for all other migratory game birds at September 24, in GBHZ 3 and 4.

This change completes the process of standardizing the opening dates of all migratory game bird hunting seasons in Manitoba, which will further improve regulation clarity and promote ease of understanding by hunters and outfitters. No changes in harvest or participation are expected to occur as a result of this change.

Increase the possession limit to three times the daily bag limit for migratory game birds

Possession limits were increased to three times the daily bag limit for all species of migratory game birds, except for white geese (Lesser Snow and Ross's), which will remain at four times the daily bag limit.

This change is intended to increase opportunities for hunters who might otherwise be forced to stop hunting, or to gift their birds in order to continue hunting, after as few as two days.

A similar measure was implemented in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario in an effort to increase consistency as much as possible in areas with similar waterfowl hunting opportunities.

This change is expected to have a negligible effect on harvest of migratory birds in Manitoba, because 1) the possession limit proposed is already permitted for dark geese (Canada and Cackling) in Manitoba; 2) a relatively small proportion (~21%) of hunters currently harvest a possession limit (16) or more of ducks over the course of the season in Manitoba; 3) harvest of Sandhill Cranes, Coots, and Wilson's Snipe remains small in Manitoba and relatively insignificant to their population status; and 4) gifting of migratory game birds is legal, so successful hunters have the option of giving birds away in order to continue hunting.

Effects of the proposed change will be evaluated by continuing to monitor hunter numbers and harvest of all migratory game birds in Manitoba.

Saskatchewan

Harmonizing regulations

The word "Cackling" was added under the heading "dark geese" in the English regulations. This proposal will make the regulations consistent with those in other provinces.

Increase the possession limit to three times the daily bag limit for migratory game birds

Possession limits were increased to three times the daily bag limit for all species of migratory game birds.

This change is intended to increase opportunities for hunters who might otherwise be forced to stop hunting, or to gift their birds in order to continue hunting, after as few as two days. Non-resident hunters in Saskatchewan commonly hunt for at least three days.

A similar measure was implemented in Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario in an effort to increase consistency as much as possible in areas with similar waterfowl hunting opportunities.

This change is expected to have little effect on harvests of waterfowl in Saskatchewan. It is unlikely that possession limits currently restrict harvest to a significant degree, because (1) a relatively small proportion of hunters harvest more than a possession limit of ducks or geese over the course of a season; (2) gifting of migratory game birds is legal, so successful hunters have the option of giving birds away in order to continue hunting; and (3) previous experience (e.g. for Canada/Cackling Geese in Manitoba) suggests that increasing possession limits will not affect overall harvest. In short, this proposal will allow successful hunters to retain more of the birds that they harvest without adversely affecting waterfowl populations, and may increase opportunities for some hunters, particularly non-residents, most of whom hunt for only a short period of time.

Effects of the proposed change will be evaluated by continuing to monitor hunter numbers and harvests of all migratory game birds.

Alberta

Increase the possession limit to three times the daily bag limit for migratory game birds

The possession limits were increased to three times the daily bag limit for all species of migratory game birds.

This change is intended to increase opportunities for hunters who might otherwise be forced to stop hunting, or to gift their birds in order to continue hunting, after as few as two days. Non-resident hunters commonly hunt for at least three days.

A similar measure was implemented in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario in an effort to increase consistency as much as possible in areas with similar waterfowl hunting opportunities.

This change is expected to have little effect on harvests of waterfowl. It is unlikely that possession limits currently restrict harvest to a significant degree, because (1) a relatively small proportion of hunters harvest more than a possession limit of ducks or geese over the course of a season; (2) gifting of migratory game birds is legal, so successful hunters have the option of giving birds away in order to continue hunting; and (3) previous experience (e.g. for Canada/Cackling Geese in Manitoba) suggests that increasing possession limits will not affect overall harvest. In short, this proposal will allow successful hunters to retain more of the birds that they harvest without adversely affecting waterfowl populations, and may increase opportunities for some hunters, particularly non-residents, most of whom hunt for only a short period of time.

Effects of the proposed change will be evaluated by continuing to monitor hunter numbers and harvests of all migratory game birds.

Coots and Snipe

The daily bag limit for coot and snipe was reduced from 10 to 8, to align the regulations with limits on other migratory birds.

Harmonizing regulations

The word "Cackling" was added under the heading "dark geese" in the English regulations. This change will make the regulations consistent with those in other provinces.

British Columbia

Snow Geese

An amendment was made to correct an oversight from previous years; the daily bag and possession limits in Management Unit (MU) 2-5 were increased to 10 and 20 respectively.

Bag and possession limits for geese

The *Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations* were amended to clearly separate daily bag and possession limits for each goose species (Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Brant and Cackling Goose and White-fronted Goose) and to indicate the species and locations where aggregate bag and possession limits apply. This administrative amendment was required to clarify the intent and content of the regulation while facilitating wildlife enforcement work.

Waterfowler Heritage Days

For Hunting District 7A, Waterfowler Heritage Days for ducks, Snow and Ross's Geese and other geese will be held on the second weekend of September for MUs 7-2 to 7-18 & 7-23 to 7-30 and 7-37 to 7-41.

For Hunting District 7B, Waterfowler Heritage Days for ducks, Snow and Ross's Geese and other geese will be held on September 1 and 2 for MUs 7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-36 and 7-42 to 7-58.

Nunavut

No regulatory changes were made for the 2010-2011 hunting season.

Northwest Territories

No regulatory changes were made for the 2010-2011 hunting season.

Yukon Territory

No regulatory changes were made for the 2010-2011 hunting season.

Literature Cited

Caswell, J.H., A.D. Afton and F.D. Caswell. 2003. Vulnerability of non-target goose species to hunting with electronic snow goose calls. Wildlife Society Bulletin 31(4):1117–1125.

Trends in the sale of Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permits

(Gendron, CWS, pers. comm.)

Information on the sale of Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permits is available for the 1966-2009 time period. Results indicated that annual sales peaked in 1978 (524 946 permits sold) and subsequently declined almost every year until 2005 when sales were 165 678, the lowest number ever recorded. Since then, the number of permits sold each year has remained relatively stable, at around 170 000.

Please Report Bird Bands

The North American Bird Banding Program relies on the public to report bird bands to our office. Reporting bird bands helps scientists and wildlife managers continue to learn about, monitor and conserve our bird populations.

There are three ways to report bands to the Canadian Bird Banding Office: online at http://www.reportband.gov/, by calling toll free 1-800-327-2263 (1-800-327-BAND), or by writing to:

Bird Banding Office
National Wildlife Research Centre
Canadian Wildlife Service
Environment Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1A 0H3

By submitting your encounter reports online you will immediately receive banding data and you have the option to print your certificate of appreciation at home. Certificates and banding data will be sent by regular mail for encounters reported by phone or by mail.

The Web address http://www.reportband.gov/ has replaced the postal address on new issue

bands. The toll-free telephone number remains on bands. Hunters can still expect to find all issues of bands on waterfowl including bands without the Web address or phone number. All bands can be reported online, by phone or by mail (http://www.reportband.gov).

Updates to the Migratory Birds Regulations

Hunting from a Vehicle for Mobility-Impaired Hunters

The *Regulations Amending the Migratory Birds Regulations* (Mobility-impaired Hunting) came into force on September 9, 2009, and allow mobility-impaired hunters to use motorized vehicles to hunt migratory birds in provinces that also permit the use of motorized vehicles.

If a provincial permit is in place that assesses mobility to the same standard and a provincial permit shows the mobility impairment, then no medical certificate is required. If, however, the province allows the mobility-impaired hunter to hunt from a motorized vehicle but does not have the same standard, the hunter requires a medical certificate.

This amendment aligns the federal hunting regulation with hunting regulations of provinces and territories so that mobility-impaired hunters within a jurisdiction will be treated equally by federal, provincial and territorial governments.

For further information, please see Appendix A.

Amendment to Allow for the Temporary Possession of Migratory Birds for Disease Testing

According to section 6(b) of the *Migratory Birds Regulations*, no person shall "have in his possession a live migratory bird, or a carcass, skin, nest or egg of a migratory bird except under authority of a permit therefor." In order to facilitate provincial, territorial, municipal and federal government employees, as well as the public, to assist in surveillance for avian influenza in wild birds found dead, the temporary possession of migratory birds is currently allowed under a ministerial order (issued under section 36 of the *Migratory Birds Regulations*). As it is envisioned that surveillance of diseases in migratory birds will continue as an ongoing measure, Environment Canada is considering amending the *Migratory Birds Regulations* to exempt individuals from the possession prohibition, in defined cases of temporary possession for disease testing.

For more information on avian influenza surveillance, please visit the following website: http://wildlife1.usask.ca/en/aiv/index.php

Non-toxic Shot Proposal

It is proposed to amend the *Migratory Birds Regulations* (MBR) and *Wildlife Area Regulations* (WAR) to change the definition of non-toxic shot in such a way as to allow for most new non-toxic shot products.

In 1990, the federal government took steps to progressively reduce the amount of lead deposited into the environment from hunting by creating, in cooperation with the provinces and territories, non-toxic shot zones for waterfowl hunting. In 1996, the WAR was amended to prohibit the possession of lead shot for hunting in all National Wildlife Areas.

Consequently, all non-toxic shot products must be tested for toxicity by the Canadian Wildlife Service. When a shot product is approved as non-toxic by the CWS, no significant detrimental effects are shown on waterfowl or their habitat. As well, non-toxic shot has the same negligible impact on the environment.

Currently, non-toxic shot products are named in the definition of non-toxic shot under the regulations. Each time a new shot product is approved by the CWS as non-toxic, it is necessary to amend the definition in the regulations, a complex and time-consuming process.

It is proposed to broaden the definition of non-toxic shot to help to increase choices for hunters, maintain competitiveness among manufacturers and ultimately result in decreased costs.

Appendix A - Regulations amending the *Migratory Birds Regulations* (Mobility-Impaired Hunting)

AMENDMENT

1. Section 15 of the *Migratory Birds Regulations* is amended by adding the following after subsection (1.1):

(1.2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(*e*), a mobility-impaired person may hunt from an aircraft, a sailboat, a powerboat or a vehicle referred to in that paragraph if it is stationary and if the
Person (*a*) is authorized, under the laws of the province where the hunting occurs, to hunt in a manner described in that paragraph, if those laws provide for such an authorization; and (*b*) has a medical certificate referred to in subsection (1.3), in any other case.
(1.3) The medical certificate must (*a*) be signed by a medical practitioner lawfully entitled to practise medicine in any province; (*b*) attest to the person's impairment of mobility because of a condition that is not temporary in nature and that severely limits the use of their legs, including being paraplegic, being hemiplegic, being dependent on a wheelchair to move about, having prostheses on both legs and having a leg amputated above the knee; and (*c*) attest that the practitioner is not aware of any medical reason to believe that the person is not capable of operating, in a competent manner, the weapon that they use to hunt.

Appendix B - 2010 Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations Summaries by Province and Territory

are also available on the CWS national Web site at:

http://www.ec.gc.ca/rcom-mbhr/default.asp?lang=En&n=8FAC341C-1

Environment Canada | Environnement Canada

Newfoundland and Labrador

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2010

Summary

Watch for the loon on your signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding bag limits, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting, and equipment, the requirement to have accepting means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, descriptions of hunting areas, and other regulations, you may contact:

Environment Canada
Wildlife Enforcement Division
6 Bruce Street
Mount Pearl, Newfoundland and Labrador A1N 4T3
Tel.: 709-772-5505, St. John's
Fax: 709-772-5097

Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions. Migratory bird hunters hunting within Nunatsiavut should contact the Nunatsiavut Government (709-896-8182) for additional information on access to Labrador Inuit Lands and additional hunting regulations. A map of the Labrador Inuit Land Claim can be found at www.nia.gov.nl.ca/nia

Migratory bird hunters: Non-toxic shot must be used in all areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, Eurasian Collared-Doves and Mourning Doves.

The bag and possession restrictions on Harlequin Ducks announced in 2007 remain in place.

Murre (turr) hunters: All hunters must purchase and be in possession of a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit and a Habitat Conservation Stamp while hunting murres. This hunt is only open to residents of Newfoundland and Labrador. Murres are the only migratory bird that can be legally hunted from a power boat. Any occupant of a boat who shoots or retrieves murres, or anyone who operates a boat to pursue murres, is hunting, as defined in the *Migratory Birds Regulations* and is required to hold a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit.

Sunday hunting: The Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations allow hunting for migratory birds (ducks, geese, snipe, and murres) on Sundays; however, Sunday hunting has been prohibited by the province. In 2006, the province brought in new regulations that allow Sunday hunting during specific periods in the year. Please contact the Provincial Wildlife Division for further information on Sunday hunting.

Waterfowler Heritage Days. Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- no participants, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed hunter over the age of majority;
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters; and
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial licensing regulations.

For information on the safety and licensing requirements for young hunters, please contact the Provincial Wildlife Division at 709-637-2025, or for questions on the *Firearms Act* contact the Canadian Firearms Program at 1-800-731-4000.

HELPFUL TIP
Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada for information about minimizing the risk of exposure:
www.phac-aspc.gc.ca

REGULATION OF MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING
The Canadian hunting regulations for migratory game birds are reviewed annually by Environment Canada, with input from the provinces and territories, and a range of other interested stakeholders. As part of this process, the Canadian Wildlife Service produces three reports each year. Information on the status of migratory game birds in Canada or proposals to amend the Canadian *Migratory Birds Regulations* can be found at:
www.ec.gc.ca/nature-nature/default.asp?lang=En&n=6E2AA1A3-1.

CRIME STOPPERS
Hunting violations may be reported to the Canadian Wildlife Service office, your local RCMP detachment, or Crime Stoppers (1-800-Must-Tell).

OPEN SEASONS ON THE ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND (NO OPEN SEASON FOR HARLEQUIN DUCKS**)

Area	Ducks, including Mergansers (Other than Long-tailed Ducks*, Harlequin Ducks**, Eiders and Scoters), Geese and Brant	Long-tailed Ducks*, Eiders and Scoters
Avalon zone	Third Saturday in September to last Saturday in December; Waterfowler Heritage Day: second Saturday of September	Fourth Saturday of November to last day of February
Off-island zone	Third Saturday in September to last Saturday in December; Waterfowler Heritage Day: second Saturday of September	See open season

* Long-tailed Ducks formerly referred to as Oldsquaw.
** Harlequin Ducks are also known locally as Lords and Ladies, Whitecaps and Elvises, or Squealers.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS ON THE ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Limits	Ducks (Other than Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks*, Harlequin Ducks**, Eiders and Scoters)	Mergansers	Long-tailed Ducks*, Eiders and Scoters	Geese	Brant
Daily Bag	10(2)	5	6	5	10
Possession	12(3)	15	18	15	20

(2) Not more than two may be from the Canvasback, Redhead, Eurasian Wigeon, Pintail, Scaup (Bluebill), American Black Duck and Mottled Duck species, or Harlequin Duck species.
(3) Not more than eight may be American Black Ducks, and not more than one may be a female or a Mallard.
* Long-tailed Ducks are also known locally as Oldsquaws.
** Harlequin Ducks are also known locally as Lords and Ladies, Whitecaps and Elvises, or Squealers.

OPEN SEASONS IN LABRADOR (NO OPEN SEASON FOR HARLEQUIN DUCKS**)

Area	Ducks (Other than Harlequin Ducks** and Eiders), Geese and Brant	Eiders
Northern Labrador zone	First Saturday in September to second Saturday in December	Last Saturday in September to second Saturday in January
Western Labrador zone	First Saturday in September to second Saturday in December	See open season
Southern Labrador Zone	Second Saturday in September to third Saturday in December; Waterfowler Heritage Day: First Saturday in September	Fourth Saturday in November to last day of February
Coastal Labrador Zone	First Saturday in September to second Saturday in December	Last Saturday in October to last Saturday in November and first Saturday in January to last day of February

** Harlequin Ducks are also known locally as Lords and Ladies, Whitecaps and Elvises, or Squealers.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN LABRADOR

Limits	Ducks (Other than Mergansers, Harlequin Ducks** Eiders and Scoters)	Mergansers, Scoters and Eiders	Geese	Brant
Daily Bag	10(2)	6	5	10
Possession	12(3)	12	10	20

(2) Not more than two may be from the Canvasback, Redhead, Eurasian Wigeon, Pintail, Scaup (Bluebill), American Black Duck and Mottled Duck species, or Harlequin Duck species.
(3) Not more than eight may be American Black Ducks.
** Harlequin Ducks are also known locally as Lords and Ladies, Whitecaps and Elvises, or Squealers.

OPEN SEASONS IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR (Murres/Turrs)

Area	Murres
Zone No. 1	September 1 to December 10
Zone No. 2	October 1 to January 20
Zone No. 3	November 25 to March 10
Zone No. 4	November 1 to January 15 and February 1 to March 10

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR (Murres/Turrs)

Limits	Murres
Daily Bag	30
Possession	60

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263) OR GO TO: WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV

EcoLogo

Environment Canada | Environnement Canada

Prince Edward Island

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2010

Summary

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

Head of Enforcement
Environment Canada
17 Waterfowl Lane
P.O. Box 6227
Sackville, New Brunswick E4L 1G6
Tel.: 506-364-5044
Fax: 506-364-5062

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

For conservation purposes, the maximum daily bag of one Barrow's Goldeneye and maximum possession limit of two Barrow's Goldeneye was instituted in Prince Edward Island in 2007. The maximum daily bag limit of one bird would not make unintentional shooting illegal; however, it would ensure that legitimate hunters who did shoot one Barrow's Goldeneye would cease hunting for the day, or be aware that they would contravene regulations if they continued hunting and shot additional Barrow's Goldeneye. These regulations have been put in place to provide additional protection to this population, currently listed as a species of special concern in Schedule 1 (List of Wildlife Species at Risk) of the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

Waterfowler Heritage Day provides young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca

CRIME STOPPERS

The Canadian Wildlife Service has joined forces with Prince Edward Island Crime Stoppers to address offences concerning migratory birds. Anyone wishing to report illegal hunting activities, illegal selling of birds, or other offences related to migratory birds is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-566-TIPS (8477). Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

OPEN SEASONS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Ducks (Other than Harlequin Ducks) and Geese	Ducks (Other than Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Harlequin Ducks, Eiders and Scoters), Snipe and Geese	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters	Woodcock
Throughout the Province of Prince Edward Island	September 18 (Waterfowler Heritage Day)	October 4 to December 11	October 4 to December 31	September 27 to December 11

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Limits	Ducks (Other than Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Harlequin Ducks, Eiders and Scoters)	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters	Geese	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily Bag	6(*a*)	6(*c*)	5	8	10
Possession	12(*b*)	12(*d*)	10	16	20

(*a*) Not more than four may be Mallard–American Black Duck hybrids or American Black Ducks, and not more than one may be Barrow's Goldeneye.
(*b*) Not more than eight may be Mallard–American Black Duck hybrids or American Black Ducks, and not more than two may be Barrow's Goldeneye.
(*c*) Not more than four may be Scoters.
(*d*) Not more than eight may be Scoters.

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263) OR GO TO: WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV

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Environment Canada | Environnement Canada

Nova Scotia

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2010

Summary

Watch for this icon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

Head of Enforcement
Environment Canada
17 Waterfowl Lane
P.O. Box 6227
Sackville, New Brunswick E4L 1G6
Tel.: 506-364-5044
Fax: 506-364-5062

Use of bait prior to and during the migratory bird hunting season is prohibited. Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions, such as Sunday closures.

For conservation purposes, the maximum daily bag of one Barrow's Goldeneye and maximum possession limit of two Barrow's Goldeneye was instituted in Nova Scotia in 2007. The maximum daily bag limit of one bird would not make unintentional shooting illegal, however, it would ensure that legitimate hunters who did shoot one Barrow's Goldeneye would cease hunting for the day, or be aware that they would contravene regulations if they continued hunting and shot additional Barrow's Goldeneye. These regulations have been put in place to provide additional protection to this population, currently listed as a species of special concern in Schedule 1 (List of Wildlife Species at Risk) of the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

In National Wildlife Areas located in Nova Scotia, the following regulations apply. Refer to notices posted at entrances for area-specific rules.

- Vehicles, ATVs and snowmobiles are prohibited unless otherwise posted.
- Vegetation may not be cut or damaged. Fires are not permitted. Camping is not permitted.
- The construction and use of tree stands is prohibited.
- Domestic animals may not be allowed to run at large.
- Outboard motors greater than 9.9 horsepower are not permitted.

Waterfowler Heritage Day provides young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in all areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

HELPFUL TIP
Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca

CRIME STOPPERS

Hunting violations may be reported to the CWS office, your local RCMP detachment, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources at 1-800-565-2224, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

OPEN SEASONS IN NOVA SCOTIA (NO OPEN SEASON FOR HARLEQUIN DUCKS)

Area	Ducks (Other than Harlequin Ducks) and Geese WATERFOWL DAY HERITAGE DAY	Ducks (Other than Harlequin Ducks)	Additional Seasons for Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders, Scoters, Goldeneye and Bufflehead	Geese	Woodcock and snipe
Zone No. 1*	Sept. 18	Oct. 1 to Dec. 31	No additional season	Sept. 7 to Sept. 17(a) and Oct. 1 to Dec. 31	Oct. 1 to Nov. 30
Zone No. 2*	Sept. 18	Oct. 8 to Dec. 31	Oct. 1 to Oct. 7 and Jan. 1 to Jan. 7	Sept. 10 to Sept. 15(a) and Oct. 8 to Jan. 15	Oct. 1 to Nov. 30
Zone No. 3*	Sept. 18	Oct. 8 to Dec. 31	Jan. 1 to Jan. 7	Sept. 10 to Sept. 15(a) and Oct. 8 to Jan. 15	Oct. 1 to Nov. 30

(a) In Zone No. 1, Zone No. 2 and Zone No. 3, hunting for Geese is allowed only on farmland. "Farmland" as defined in the Migratory Birds Regulations means land that is being used for crop production or animal husbandry.

* "Zone No. 1" means the counties of Antigonish, Pictou, Colchester, Cumberland, Hants, Kings, and Annapolis.
"Zone No. 2" means the counties of Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne, Queens, Lunenburg, Halifax, Hants/Kings, Cape Breton, Victoria, Inverness, and Richmond, except for the area described under Zone 3.
"Zone No. 3" means Sable Island and all waters drifting into Sable Lake including waters on the lake side of the highway bridge across Sable River at Sand Islands (Highway No. 105); at St. Peters on St. Peters Inlet (Highway No. 4); and at Lake d'Or on St. Andrews Channel (Highway No. 105).

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NOVA SCOTIA

Limits	Ducks (Other than Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Harlequin Ducks, Eiders and Scoters)	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters	Geese	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily Bag	6(a)	2(a)	5(c,f)	8	10
Possession	12(b)	10(d)	10(e,f)	16	20

(a) Not more than one may be American Black Duck, and not more than one may be Barrow's Goldeneye.
(b) Not more than eight may be American Black Ducks and not more than two may be Barrow's Goldeneye.
(c) Not more than four may be scoters.
(d) Not more than eight may be scoters.
(e) In Zone 1, not more than a total of three additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily, and not more than a total of six additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be possessed from September 8 to September 15 inclusive.
(f) In Zone 2 and Zone 3, not more than a total of four additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily and not more than a total of six additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be possessed from September 10 to September 15 inclusive.

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263) OR GO TO: WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV

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Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2010

Summary

Watch for this icon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

Head of Enforcement
Environment Canada
17 Waterfowl Lane
P.O. Box 6227
Sackville, New Brunswick E4L 1G6
Tel.: 506-364-5044
Fax: 506-364-5062

Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions, such as Sunday closures, the 1:00 p.m. closure for Tabusintac and Tracadie lagoons, the requirement to use a dog while hunting woodcock during September, etc.

Hunting Zones

Zone No. 1
Saint John County south of No. 1 Highway and west of Saint John Harbour, that part of Charlotte County lying south of No. 1 Highway, and the Grand Manan Islands and Campobello Island, except the following area, which is closed to hunting: the area in the Bay of Fundy known as The Wolves, including the surrounding waters.

Zone No. 2
The remainder of the Province of New Brunswick, except the following, which are closed to hunting: the estuary of the Tabusintac River, Bathurst Basin and most of Bathurst Harbour (two islands remain open and signs have been posted to indicate their locations), and the Dalhousie shoreline from the eastern tip of Dalhousie Island to the mouth of the Miller Brook and extending one kilometre offshore.

For conservation purposes, the maximum daily bag of one Barrow's Goldeneye and maximum possession limit of two Barrow's Goldeneye was instituted in New Brunswick in 2007. The maximum daily bag limit of one bird would not make unintentional shooting illegal; however, it would ensure that legitimate hunters who did shoot one Barrow's Goldeneye would cease hunting for the day, or be aware that they would contravene regulations if they continued hunting and shot additional Barrow's Goldeneye. These regulations have been put in place to provide additional protection to this population, currently listed as a species of special concern in Schedule 1 (List of Wildlife Species at Risk) of the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

"Farmland" as defined in the *Migratory Birds Regulations* means land that is being used for crop production or animal husbandry ("terre agricole").

In National Wildlife Areas located in New Brunswick, the following regulations apply. Refer to notices posted at entrances for area-specific rules.

- Vehicles, ATVs and snowmobiles are prohibited unless otherwise posted.
- Vegetation may not be cut or damaged. Fires are not permitted. Camping is not permitted.
- The construction and use of tree stands is prohibited.
- Domestic animals may not be allowed to run at large.
- Outboard motors greater than 9.9 horsepower are not permitted.

Waterfowler Heritage Day provides young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in all areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

HELPFUL TIP
Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca

CRIME STOPPERS

The Canadian Wildlife Service has joined forces with New Brunswick Crime Stoppers to address offences concerning migratory birds. Anyone wishing to report illegal hunting activities, illegal selling of birds, or other offences related to migratory birds is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

OPEN SEASONS IN NEW BRUNSWICK (NO OPEN SEASON FOR HARLEQUIN DUCKS)

Area	Ducks (Other than Harlequin Ducks) and Geese WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAY	Ducks (Other than Harlequin Ducks), Geese (Other than Canada Geese) and Cackling Geese) and Snipe	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese	Additional Season for Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters in Coastal Waters Only	Woodcock
Zone No. 1	Sept. 18	Oct. 15 to Jan. 4	Sept. 7 to Sept. 17(a) and Oct. 15 to Jan. 4	Feb. 1 to Feb. 24	Sept. 15 to Nov. 30
Zone No. 2	Sept. 18	Oct. 1 to Dec. 18	Sept. 7 to Sept. 17(a) and Oct. 1 to Dec. 18	No additional season	Sept. 15 to Nov. 30

(a) In Zone No. 1 and Zone No. 2, hunting for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese is allowed only on farmland.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Limits	Ducks (Other than Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Harlequin Ducks, Eiders and Scoters)	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters	Geese	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily Bag	6(a)	6(c)	5(e)	8	10
Possession	12(a)	12(d)	10(e)	16	20

(a) Not more than three may be American Black Ducks, and not more than one may be Barrow's Goldeneye.
(b) Not more than one may be American Black Ducks, and not more than one may be Harlequin Ducks.
(c) Not more than four may be scoters, and in Zone No. 1 from February 1 to February 24, not more than four eiders may be taken daily.
(d) Not more than eight may be scoters, and in Zone No. 1 from February 1 to February 24, not more than eight eiders may be possessed.
(e) Not more than a total of three additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily, and not more than a total of six additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be possessed from September 7 to September 17 inclusive.

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Ontario

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2010

Summary

Watch for the feature blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on times, general prohibitions, penalties, hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, descriptions of hunting districts, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
867 Lakeshore Road
P.O. Box 5050
Burlington, Ontario L7R 4A6
Tel.: 905-336-4410

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Note that south of the French and Mattawa Rivers, Sunday gun hunting is permitted by provincial regulations in some municipalities, but not all. Season dates for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese in the Southern District may differ between municipalities where Sunday gun hunting is permitted and those where it is not. Hunters should consult the provincial regulations for information about Wildlife Management Unit boundaries and a list of municipalities where Sunday gun hunting is permitted.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those hunters still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking, whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may be exposed to avian borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following guidance, coordinated by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca.

Hunting Districts

1. **Hudson–James Bay District**
   Wildlife Management Units 1A, 1B, and the portions of Wildlife Management Units 10, 25, and 26 lying north of longitude 83°45' and north of latitude 51°
2. **Northern District**
   Wildlife Management Unit 1C, those parts of 10, 25, and 26 lying west of longitude 83°45' and south of latitude 51°, and Wildlife Management Units 2 to 24, 27 to 41, and 45
3. **Central District**
   Wildlife Management Units 42 to 44 and 46 to 59
4. **Southern District**
   Wildlife Management Units 60A and 61 to 95

OPEN SEASONS IN ONTARIO (NO OPEN SEASON FOR HARLEQUIN DUCKS)

Area	Ducks, Other than Harlequin Ducks[1], Rails (Other than Yellow Rails and King Rails), Mourning Doves, Snipe, and Geese (Other than Canada Geese and Cackling Geese)	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese	Woodcock
1. Hudson–James Bay District	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 5 to Dec. 19	Sept. 15 to Dec. 15
2. Northern District	Sept. 10 to Dec. 25[2]	Sept. 5 to Dec. 19	Sept. 15 to Dec. 15
3. Central District	Sept. 10 to Jan. 2[3]	Sept. 5 to Dec. 22	Sept. 20 to Dec. 20
4. Southern District	Sept. 25 to Jan. 9[4]	Sept. 9 to Sept. 19[5][6] Sept. 25 to Dec. 29[6] Sept. 25 to 26[7] Dec. 26 to 31[7]	Sept. 25 to Dec. 29

[1] Except for Ruddy Duck (both for a daily bag limit and for open season begins on September 25 and ends on December 1).
[2] Except for Ruddy Duck (for a daily bag limit and for open season begins on September 25 and ends on December 2).
[3] Except for Canvasback, Black Duck, Pintail, Redhead, and Scaup (for a daily bag limit and for open season begins on September 25 and ends on December 26).
[4] Except for Canvasback, Black Duck, Pintail, Redhead, and Scaup (for a daily bag limit and for open season begins on September 25 and ends on December 26).
[5] Hunting is permitted only where Sunday gun hunting is permitted.
[6] Except in Wildlife Management Unit 95.
[7] Hunting that part of the Province of Ontario lying south of Ontario Road 401, which includes Long Point.
[8] See pertinent provincial Canada Geese or Cackling Goose bag and possession limits, and restrictions on hunting where it is not legal to use or have firearms or ammunition.
[9] See page 16 Wildlife Management Units 95.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN ONTARIO

Limits	Ducks (Other than Harlequin Ducks)[1]	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese	White-fronted Geese and Brant	Snow Geese	Rails (Other than Yellow Rails) and Snipe	Moorhens	Woodcock and Coots
Daily Bag	6[2][3][4][5][6][7][8]	5[3][4][5][6][7][8][9]	5	10	10	4	8
Possession	18[2][3][4][5][6][7][8]	20	15	30	30	12	24

[1] Not more than one Bufflehead, Black Duck, Mallard (other than Mallard (Mexico) Duck), Pintail, Redhead, Scaup, Wood Duck, Hooded Merganser, or Red-breasted Merganser may be taken daily, and not more than three Mallard (other than Mallard (Mexico) Duck) may be taken daily.
[2] Not more than two Pintail may be taken daily, and not more than four may be possessed.
[3] Not more than one Harlequin Duck may be taken daily, and not more than two may be possessed.
[4] Not more than one Mallard (Mexico) Duck may be taken daily, and not more than two may be possessed.
[5] A total of not more than three Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily in that portion of Wildlife Management Unit 95 in the southern Lake Huron Zone and a Wildlife Management Unit 23 to 31 and 37 to 41 from September 10 to December 31.
[6] A total of not more than two Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily in Wildlife Management Unit 95 from September 25 to January 9.
[7] A total of not more than one Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily in Wildlife Management Unit 42 to 44 and 46 from September 25 to December 31.
[8] A total of ten additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily in Wildlife Management Unit 30 and 45 from September 25 to December 31, in Wildlife Management Units 42 to 44 and 46 from September 25 to December 31, in Wildlife Management Units 23 to 29, 31, 37 to 41 and 95 from September 25 to December 31, and in Wildlife Management Units 1C, 2 to 22, 24, 27 to 36, 42 to 44, and 46 to 59 from September 25 to December 31 (a Resident Canada Goose hunting permit is required in Wildlife Management Units 1C, 2 to 22, 24, 27 to 36, 42 to 44, and 46 to 59 from September 25 to December 31).
[9] A total of three additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily in Wildlife Management Units 42 to 44, 46 and 95 from September 25 to December 31, and in Wildlife Management Units 1C, 2 to 22, 24, 27 to 36, 45, 47 to 59 from September 25 to December 31 (a Resident Canada Goose hunting permit is required in Wildlife Management Units 1C, 2 to 22, 24, 27 to 36, 42 to 44, and 46 to 59 from September 25 to December 31).

Canada

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CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263) OR GO TO: WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV

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Environment Canada / Environnement Canada

Quebec

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2010

Summary

Canadian Wildlife Service
1141 Route de l'Eglise
P.O. Box 10100
Sainte-Foy, Quebec G1V 4H5
Tel.: (418) 649-6475
Fax: (418) 644-6475

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RECOMMENDATION

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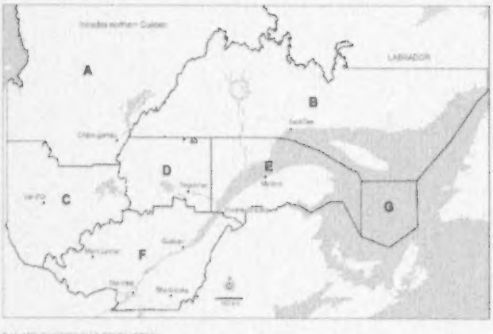
Hunting Districts



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Saskatchewan

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2010

Summary

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting districts, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
115 Perimeter Road
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 0X4
Tel.: 306-975-4919

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in all areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Hunting Districts

District No. 1 (North)
Provincial Wildlife Management Zones 43 and 47 to 76 inclusive.

District No. 2 (South)
Provincial Wildlife Management Zones 1 to 42 inclusive and 44 to 46 inclusive.

NOTE
Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2010 federal permits.

HELPFUL TIP
Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca

OPEN SEASONS IN SASKATCHEWAN

District	Ducks, Coots and Snipe	Geese RESIDENTS OF CANADA	White Geese (Snow and Ross's Geese) NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Dark Geese (Canada, Cackling and White-fronted Geese) NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Sandhill Cranes
No. 1 (North)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(*d*)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(*d*)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16
No. 2 (South)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(*a*)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(*b*)(*d*)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(*d*)	Sept. 10 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(*c*)

(*a*) Falconry season is open from September 1 to December 16 inclusive.
(*b*) Except White-fronted Geese, the open season for residents of Canada for White-fronted Geese is from September 10 to December 16 inclusive.
(*c*) The Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Area is closed to all Sandhill Crane hunting.
(*d*) Snow Goose call recordings may be used but, if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white phase Snow Geese or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of them.

NOTE
The open season for geese for residents and non-residents of Canada in District No. 2 (South), and the Provincial Wildlife Management Zones 43, 47 to 59 inclusive, and 67 to 69 inclusive, of District No. 1 (North), includes only that part of each day from one half-hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon, local time, from September 1 to October 14, inclusive, and on and after October 15 geese may be hunted from one half-hour before sunrise until one half-hour after sunset, except east of 106 degrees west longitude, where, on and after September 1, white geese (Snow and Ross's geese) may be hunted from one half-hour before sunrise until one half-hour after sunset. Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Area is closed to all hunting until September 20.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN SASKATCHEWAN

Limits	Ducks	White Geese (Snow and Ross's Geese)	Dark Geese (Canada, Cackling and White-fronted Geese)	Sandhill Cranes	Coots	Snipe
Daily Bag	8(*a*)	20	8(*c*)	3	10	10
Possession	24(*b*)	60	24(*d*)	15	30	30

(*a*) Not more than three may be Northern Pintails.
(*b*) Not more than nine may be Northern Pintails.
(*c*) For residents of Canada, not more than four may be White-fronted Geese. For non-residents of Canada, not more than three may be White-fronted Geese.
(*d*) For residents of Canada, not more than 12 may be White-fronted Geese. For non-residents of Canada, not more than nine may be White-fronted Geese.

MEASURES IN SASKATCHEWAN CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Area	Period During Which Snow Geese May Be Killed	Additional Hunting Method or Equipment
East of 106° W longitude	April 1 to May 31	Recorded bird calls(*a*)(*b*)
West of 106° W longitude	April 1 to April 30	Recorded bird calls(*a*)(*b*)

(*a*) "Recorded bird calls" refers to bird calls of a species referred to in the heading in column 2.
(*b*) Snow Goose call recordings may be used but, if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of them.

Cranes
Where the Director General of the Canadian Wildlife Service or the Chief Provincial Game Officer of Saskatchewan is of the opinion that Whooping Cranes may be in the Saskatchewan Sandhill Crane Management Area during the open season for Sandhill Cranes in that area, such officer may prohibit the hunting of Sandhill Cranes in that area, and thereafter no person shall hunt or kill Sandhill Cranes in that area in that year.

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
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Alberta

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2010

Summary

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting zones, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
4999-98 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T6B 2X3
Tel.: 780-951-8891

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Hunting Zones

Hunters are advised to pay particular attention to the Alberta Hunting Guide to ensure that they are hunting for the correct species in the correct wildlife management unit during the permitted times and dates. Note that these zone numbers do not correspond to regions as presented in the Guide.

Waterfowler Heritage Days: Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca

OPEN SEASONS IN ALBERTA

Area	Ducks, Coots and Snipe	White Geese (Snow and Ross's Geese)	Dark Geese (Canada, Cackling and White-fronted Geese)	Waterfowler Heritage Days	Falconry Season for Ducks, Coots and Snipe
Zones* 1(a), 2, 3, 4, and 8	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(*b*)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16		Sept. 1 to Dec. 16
Zones* 5, 6, and 7	Sept. 8 to Dec. 21	Sept. 8 to Dec. 21(*b*)	Sept. 8 to Dec. 21	Sept. 4 to Sept. 5	Sept. 8 to Dec. 21

* "**Zone No. 1**" means that part of Alberta included in Provincial Wildlife Management Units (PWMUs) 530 to 536, 509 to 512, 514 to 519, 520 to 532, and 841.
"**Zone No. 2**" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 344, 347, 349 to 360, 520 to 528, 534 to 537, 539 to 542, and 544.
"**Zone No. 3**" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 200, 202 to 204, 206, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, and 940.
"**Zone No. 4**" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 206, 208, 216, 220 to 222, 224, 226, 228, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 323, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336 to 340, 342, 346, 348, 429, 507, 508, and 930.
"**Zone No. 5**" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 151, 160, 162 to 166, and 166.
"**Zone No. 6**" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 152, 156, 158, 210, 212, 214, 300, 302 to 306, 308, 310, 312, and 314.
"**Zone No. 7**" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 102, 116, 118, 119, 124, 144, 148, and 150.
"**Zone No. 8**" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 316, 318, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416 to 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436 to 442, 444 to 446.

(*a*) Except that Alberta Wildlife Management Unit 841 in Zone 1 has an opening date of September 15.
(*b*) Snow Goose call recordings may be used but, if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of them.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN ALBERTA

Limits	Ducks	White Geese (Snow and Ross's Geese)	Dark Geese (Canada, Cackling and White-fronted Geese)	Coots	Snipe
Daily Bag	8(*a*)	20	8(*c*)	8	8
Possession	24(*b*)	60	24(*d*)	24	24

(*a*) Not more than four may be Northern Pintails.
(*b*) Not more than 12 may be Northern Pintails.
(*c*) For Canadian residents, not more than five may be White-fronted Geese. For non-residents of Canada, not more than two may be White-fronted Geese.
(*d*) For Canadian residents, not more than 15 may be White-fronted Geese. For non-residents of Canada, not more than nine may be White-fronted Geese.

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263) OR GO TO: WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV

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Environment Canada Environnement Canada

Nunavut

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2010

Summary

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting areas, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
5204 50th Avenue, Suite 301
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories X1A1E2
Tel.: 867-669-4730

Check your permit and territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in all areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

NOTE
Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2010 federal permits.

HELPFUL TIP
Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure:
www.phac-aspc.gc.ca

OPEN SEASONS IN NUNAVUT

Area	Ducks, Geese, Coots and Snipe
Throughout Nunavut	September 1 to December 10(*a*)

(*a*) Snow Goose call recordings may be used but, if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of them.

MEASURES IN NUNAVUT CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Item	Column 1 Area	Column 2 Period During Which Snow Geese May Be Killed	Column 3 Additional Hunting Method or Equipment
1	Throughout Nunavut	May 1 to June 7	Recorded bird calls(*a*)(*b*)
2	Throughout Nunavut	August 15 to August 31	Recorded bird calls(*a*)(*b*)

(*a*) "recorded bird calls" refers to bird calls of a species referred to in the heading of column 2.
(*b*) Snow Goose call recordings may be used but, if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of them.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NUNAVUT

Limits	Ducks RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Geese RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Geese NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Coots RESIDENTS OF CANADA AND NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snipe RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snipe NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA
Daily Bag	25(*c*)(*g*)	8(*c*)(*g*)	15(*b*)(*e*)(*i*)	5(*a*)(*b*)(*e*)(*i*)	25	10	10
Possession	No limit(*d*)(*h*)	16(*d*)(*h*)	No limit(*b*)(*j*)	10(*a*)(*b*)(*f*)(*j*)	No limit	No limit	20

(*a*) except that non-residents may not take more than two White-fronted Geese daily and may not possess more than four.
(*b*) Except that on all islands and water in James Bay located west of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, not more than a total of three Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily, and not more than a total of 24 Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be possessed.
(*c*) Except that on all islands and water in James Bay located west of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, the daily bag limit for ducks is six, with not more than two American Black Ducks and one Barrow's Goldeneye.
(*d*) Except that on all islands and water in James Bay located west of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, the possession limit for ducks is 12, with not more than four American Black Ducks and two Barrow's Goldeneye.
(*e*) Except that on all islands and water in James Bay located east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, the daily bag limit is 20 Snow Geese, and a total of five other geese.
(*f*) Except that on all islands and water in James Bay located east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, the possession limit is 60 Snow Geese, and a total of 20 other geese.
(*g*) Except that on all islands and water in James Bay located east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, the daily bag limit for ducks is six, with not more than four American Black Ducks, one Barrow's Goldeneye and one Blue-winged Teal.
(*h*) Except that on all islands and water in James Bay located east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, the possession limit for ducks is 12, with not more than eight American Black Ducks, two Barrow's Goldeneyes and two Blue-winged Teal.
(*i*) Except that the daily bag limit for Snow Geese is 25.
(*j*) Except that the possession limit for Snow Geese by non-residents is 30.

NOTE
No person shall hunt earlier than one half-hour before sunrise or later than one half-hour after sunset, except north of the 60th parallel, where no person shall hunt earlier than one hour before sunrise or later than one hour after sunset.

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263) OR GO TO: WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV

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Environment Canada Environnement Canada

Northwest Territories

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2010

Summary

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting areas, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
5204 50th Avenue, Suite 301
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories X1A 1E2
Tel.: 867-669-4730

Check your permit and territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

HELPFUL TIP
Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca

OPEN SEASONS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Area	Ducks, Geese, Coots and Snipe
Throughout the Northwest Territories	September 1 to December 10

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Limits	Ducks RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Geese RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Geese NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Coots RESIDENTS OF CANADA AND NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snipe RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snipe NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA
Daily Bag	25	8	15	5(*a*)	25	10	10
Possession	No limit	16	No limit	10(*a*)	No limit	No limit	20

(*a*) Except that non-residents may not take more than two White-fronted Geese daily and may not possess more than four.

NOTE
No person shall hunt earlier than one hour before sunrise or later than one hour after sunset.

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263) OR GO TO: WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV

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Environment Canada / Environnement Canada

Yukon Territory

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2010

Summary

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting areas, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
91782 Alaska Highway
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 5B7
Tel.: 867-667-4597

Check your permit and territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

HELPFUL TIP
Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca

Hunting Areas

Northern Yukon Territory: All that portion of the Yukon Territory lying north of latitude 66°
Central Yukon Territory: All that portion of the Yukon Territory lying between latitude 62° and 66°
Southern Yukon Territory: All that portion of the Yukon Territory lying south of latitude 62°

OPEN SEASONS IN THE YUKON TERRITORY

Area	Ducks	Geese	Sandhill Cranes	Rails and Coots	Snipe
Northern Yukon Territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31 for residents of the Yukon Territory; Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 for non-residents of the Yukon Territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31 for residents of the Yukon Territory; Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 for non-residents of the Yukon Territory	No open season	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31 for residents of the Yukon Territory; Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 for non-residents of the Yukon Territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31 for residents of the Yukon Territory; Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 for non-residents of the Yukon Territory
Central Yukon Territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31 for residents of the Yukon Territory; Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 for non-residents of the Yukon Territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31 for residents of the Yukon Territory; Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 for non-residents of the Yukon Territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31 for residents of the Yukon Territory; Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 for non-residents of the Yukon Territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31 for residents of the Yukon Territory; Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 for non-residents of the Yukon Territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31 for residents of the Yukon Territory; Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 for non-residents of the Yukon Territory
Southern Yukon Territory	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	No open season	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN THE YUKON TERRITORY

Limits	Ducks	Geese	Sandhill Cranes	Rails and Coots	Snipe
Daily Bag	8(*a*)	5(*b*)	2	0(*c*)	10
Possession	24(*a*)	15(*b*)	4	0(*c*)	30(*d*)

(*a*) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory 17 additional ducks may be taken per day, with no possession limit.
(*b*) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory 10 additional geese may be taken per day, with no possession limit.
(*c*) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory 25 rails and coots may be taken per day, with no possession limit.
(*d*) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory there is no possession limit.

NOTE
No person shall hunt earlier than one hour before sunrise or later than one hour after sunset.

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263) OR GO TO: WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV

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Manitoba

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2010

Summary

Watch for this hoot on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on firm, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting zones, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
Suite 150
123 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 4W2
Tel.: 204-983-5263

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Game Bird Hunting Zones

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a Firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

HELPFUL TIP
Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca

OPEN SEASONS IN MANITOBA

Game Bird Hunting Zone	Ducks and Geese WATERFOWL HERITAGE DAYS	Ducks, Geese, Coots and Snipe RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks, Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, Coots and Snipe NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Sandhill Cranes RESIDENTS OF CANADA AND NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snow and Ross's Geese NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA
Zone No. 1	N/A	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31(f)	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	No open season	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31(5)
Zone No. 2	Sept. 1 to Sept. 7	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(f)	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30(a)	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(5)
Zone No. 3	Sept. 1 to Sept. 7	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(f)	Sept. 24 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	Sept. 17 to Nov. 30(5)
Zone No. 4	Sept. 1 to Sept. 7	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(f)	Sept. 24 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	Sept. 17 to Nov. 30(5)

(a) In portions of Game Hunting Zone 1(1) (b) to (e) and (3) (a) to (d).
(5) In the Quota all hunting may be used but, if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white or blue phase Snow Geese or any combination of them.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN MANITOBA

Limits	Ducks RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	White Geese (Snow and Ross's Geese)	Dark Geese (Canada, Cackling and White-fronted Geese, and Brant) RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Dark Geese (Canada, Cackling and White-fronted Geese, and Brant) NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Sandhill Cranes	Coots	Snipe
Daily Bag	8(a)	8(c)	20	8	5	3	8	10
Possession	24(b)	24(d)	80	24	15	15	24	30

(a) In Zone 1 for residents, not more than one may be Redhead or Canvasback in total.
(b) In Zone 4 for residents, not more than 12 may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.
(c) In Zone 4 for non-residents, not more than two may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.
(d) In Zone 4 for non-residents, not more than six may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.

NOTE
The open season for hunting geese by non-residents of Canada in Game Bird Hunting Zone 4, and the Provincial Game Hunting Areas 13A, 14, 14A, all that portion of Game Hunting Area 16 south of the north limit of township 33, Game Hunting Areas 18, 18A, 18B, 18C, 19, 19A, 19B, 20, 21A, 23A, and 25 as described in Manitoba Regulation 220/86 as filed on September 25, 1986, includes only that part of each day from one half-hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon, local time, from the opening date (September 24) up to and including the second Sunday of October, and thereafter geese may be hunted from one half-hour before sunrise until one half-hour after sunset. However, during the first week of the non-resident Snow and Ross's goose season (beginning on September 17), these species may be hunted from one half-hour before sunrise until one half-hour after sunset.

The Migratory Birds Regulations also provide for special conservation periods when hunters may take overabundant species. Please note that additional hunting methods or equipment are permitted during the special conservation periods. See the table below for details.

NOTE
Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2010 federal permits.

MEASURES IN MANITOBA CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Area	Period During Which Snow Geese May Be Killed	Additional Hunting Method or Equipment
Zone 1	April 1 to May 31 and August 15 to August 31	Recorded bird calls(6)(7)
Zones 2, 3, and 4	April 1 to May 31	Recorded bird calls(6)(7)

(6) "Recorded bird calls" refers to the Snow Goose call.
(7) Snow Goose calls (recordings) may be used for the purpose of hunting from cover. If Snow Goose calls (recordings) are used with decoys, the decoys must only represent white or blue phase Snow Geese or any combination of them only.

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263) OR GO TO: WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV

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Environment Canada | Environnement Canada

British Columbia

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2010

Summary

Watch for this icon to find signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on bag, general conditions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using lead, descriptions of hunting districts, and other restrictions on hunting, consult:

Environment Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service
Pacific Wildlife Research Centre
RR 1, 5421 Robertson Road
Delta, British Columbia V4K 3N2
Tel.: 604-940-4710

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Hunting Districts

1. Provincial Management Units (PMU) 1-1 to 1-12
2. PMU 2-2 to 2-10
3. PMU 3-2 to 3-20 and 3-26 to 3-46
4. PMU 4-1 to 4-9 and 4-11 to 4-16
5. PMU 5-1 to 5-15
6. PMU 6-1 to 6-10
7. PMU 7-2 to 7-38
8. PMU 8-1 to 8-15 and 8-21 to 8-28

Non-toxic shot must be used in all areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for Band-tailed Pigeons and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For toxic birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fowl before cooking them.

Waterfowl Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practise hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a relaxed, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- no participating young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

HELPFUL TIP

Conditions may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure:
www.phac-aspc.gc.ca

OPEN SEASONS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

District	Ducks and Geese WATERFOWLER HUNTING DAYS	Ducks, Coots and Geese	Snipe and Rose's Gambel	Other Geese	Swans	Band-tailed Pigeons	Mourning Doves
No. 1	Oct. 2 and 3	Oct. 9 to Jan. 21	Oct. 9 to Jan. 21	Oct. 9 to Jan. 21(a) Sept. 4 to 12(b)(c) Oct. 9 to Nov. 21(b)(c) Dec. 16 to Jan. 9(b)(c) Feb. 10 to March 10(b)(c)	No open season	Sept. 15 to Sept. 30	No open season
No. 2	Sept. 4 and 5(a)(f) and Oct. 2 and 3(d)	Oct. 9 to Jan. 21(c)(f)(g) Sept. 10 to Dec. 25(e)	Oct. 9 to Jan. 21(c) Feb. 25 to March 10(d)	Oct. 9 to Nov. 21(c) Sept. 4 to Nov. 12(c)(f) Oct. 9 to Nov. 27(f)(g) Dec. 16 to Jan. 9(c)(f) Feb. 10 to March 10(c)(f) Sept. 10 to Dec. 25(e)(f)	March 1 to March 10(c)(f)	Sept. 15 to Sept. 30(e)	No open season
No. 3	Sept. 4 and 5	Sept. 10 to Dec. 25	Sept. 10 to Dec. 25	Sept. 10 to Dec. 25(e) Sept. 10 to Sept. 25(e) Oct. 1 to Dec. 25(e) March 1 to March 10(e)	No open season	Sept. 15 to Sept. 30(e)	Sept. 1 to Sept. 30
No. 4	Sept. 4 and 5	Sept. 10 to Dec. 25	Sept. 10 to Dec. 25	Sept. 10 to Dec. 25	No open season	No open season	Sept. 1 to Sept. 30
No. 5	Sept. 11 and 12	Sept. 18 to Dec. 25	Sept. 18 to Dec. 25	Sept. 25 to Dec. 25	No open season	No open season	No open season
No. 6	Sept. 4 and Sept.(a)	Sept. 1 to 3 and Sept. 6 to Nov. 30(g) Oct. 1 to Jan. 15(c)	Sept. 1 to 3 and Sept. 6 to Nov. 30(g) Oct. 1 to Jan. 15(c)	Sept. 1 to 3 and Sept. 6 to Nov. 30(c) Oct. 1 to Jan. 15(c)	No open season	No open season	No open season
No. 7	Sept. 1 and 2(a) Sept. 11 and 12(d)	Sept. 3 to Nov. 30(c) Sept. 1 to 10 and Sept. 13 to Nov. 13(d)	Sept. 3 to Nov. 30(c) Sept. 1 to 10 and Sept. 13 to Nov. 13(d)	Sept. 3 to Nov. 30(c) Sept. 1 to 10 and Sept. 13 to Nov. 13(d)	No open season	No open season	No open season
No. 8	Sept. 4 and 5	Sept. 12 to Dec. 25	Sept. 12 to Dec. 25	Sept. 12 to Dec. 25(c) Sept. 26 to Sept. 26(d) Dec. 26 to Jan. 9(d) Feb. 21 to March 10(d)	No open season	No open season	Sept. 1 to Sept. 30

(a) Provincial Management Units 1-1 and 1-4 to 1-12 inclusive and the Canada Geese and Cackling Geese only.
(b) Provincial Management Units 1-1, 1-11, and 1-12 only.
(c) Except as provided in footnote (a) above.
(d) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-4 inclusive, and 2-10 to 2-19 inclusive and 2-26 to 2-46 inclusive, Canada Geese, and Cackling Geese only, and additionally in Provincial Management Units 2-4 and 2-5 only, for Short-Horned Hare only.
(e) Provincial Management Unit 2-11 only.
(f) Pacific, Dusky Canada and Cackling Geese only.
(g) Provincial Management Unit 5-7 to 5-11 inclusive only and 5-15 to 5-40 inclusive.
(h) Provincial Management Units 2-4 and 2-5 only.
(i) Provincial Management Units 2-1 to 2-4 inclusive, 2-6, 2-10, and 2-11 to 2-19 inclusive only, and for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese only.
(j) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-4 inclusive, 2-6, 2-10, and 2-11 to 2-19 inclusive only, and for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese only.
(k) 2 % Canada Geese and Cackling Geese only.
(l) Provincial Management Unit 2-6 only.
(m) Provincial Management Unit 2-26 to 2-32 inclusive.
(n) Provincial Management Units 1-2 to 1-4, 1-9 inclusive, 1-10 to 1-12 inclusive, and 8-21 to 8-28 inclusive, for Green-Winged Teal, and Cackling geese are considered Management Units 1-4, 2-26, 8-28 and 8-29 inclusive, North, and 8-30 for above-named species only.
(o) Provincial Management Units 8-15, 8-21, 8-26 to 8-28 inclusive, 8-30, and 8-37 for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese only.
(p) Provincial Management Units 8-15 to 8-17 inclusive.
(q) Provincial Management Units 6-1 to 6-3, 6-6 to 6-10 inclusive and 6-13 to 6-16 inclusive only.
(r) Provincial Management Units 6-1 to 6-3 and 6-7 to 6-16 inclusive only.
(s) Provincial Management Units 5-1 to 5-3 inclusive, 5-12 to 5-14 inclusive and 5-41 to 5-46 inclusive.
(t) Provincial Management Units 5-1 to 5-10 inclusive, 5-12 to 5-14 inclusive and 5-41 to 5-46 inclusive.
(u) For White-Fronted Geese only.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Limits	Ducks	White Geese (Snow and Ross's Geese)	Canada, Cackling and White-fronted Geese	Brant	Coots and Snipe	Band-tailed Pigeons and Mourning Doves
Daily Bag	8(a)(b)(c)(d)	5 (f)(g)	5(f)	5(g)	25	5
Possession	16(a)(b)(c)(d)	15 (f)(g)	15(f)	5(g)	75	15

(a) See areas less five and for Northern District.
(b) See areas less eight and for Northern District.
(c) See areas less five and for Lower Fraser Valley.
(d) See areas less eight five and for Lower Fraser Valley.
(e) See areas less one and for Sea Duck Restriction.
(f) See areas less one and for Goose in Provincial Management Unit 2-1.
(g) See areas less five and for Goose in Provincial Management Unit 2-4.
(h) See areas less one and for Goose in Okanagan Zone.
(i) See areas less four and for Goose in Okanagan Zone.
(j) See areas less one and for Provincial Management Unit 1-1 and 1-4 only.
(k) See areas less five and for Provincial Management Unit 1-1 and 1-4 only.
(l) Except as provided in footnote (m) below, Dusky or White-Fronted Geese in any combination of three may be taken in addition to any other species of goose taken in Region 3.
(m) A daily bag of one goose from 27 October, Cackling or White-fronted Geese, or one from among each of the 2-3-4, 2-5-6, 2-7-8 and 2-9-10 areas for Canada Geese can be taken in addition to any other species of goose taken in Region 3.

Canada

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